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Delicious in Dungeon
RYOKO KUI

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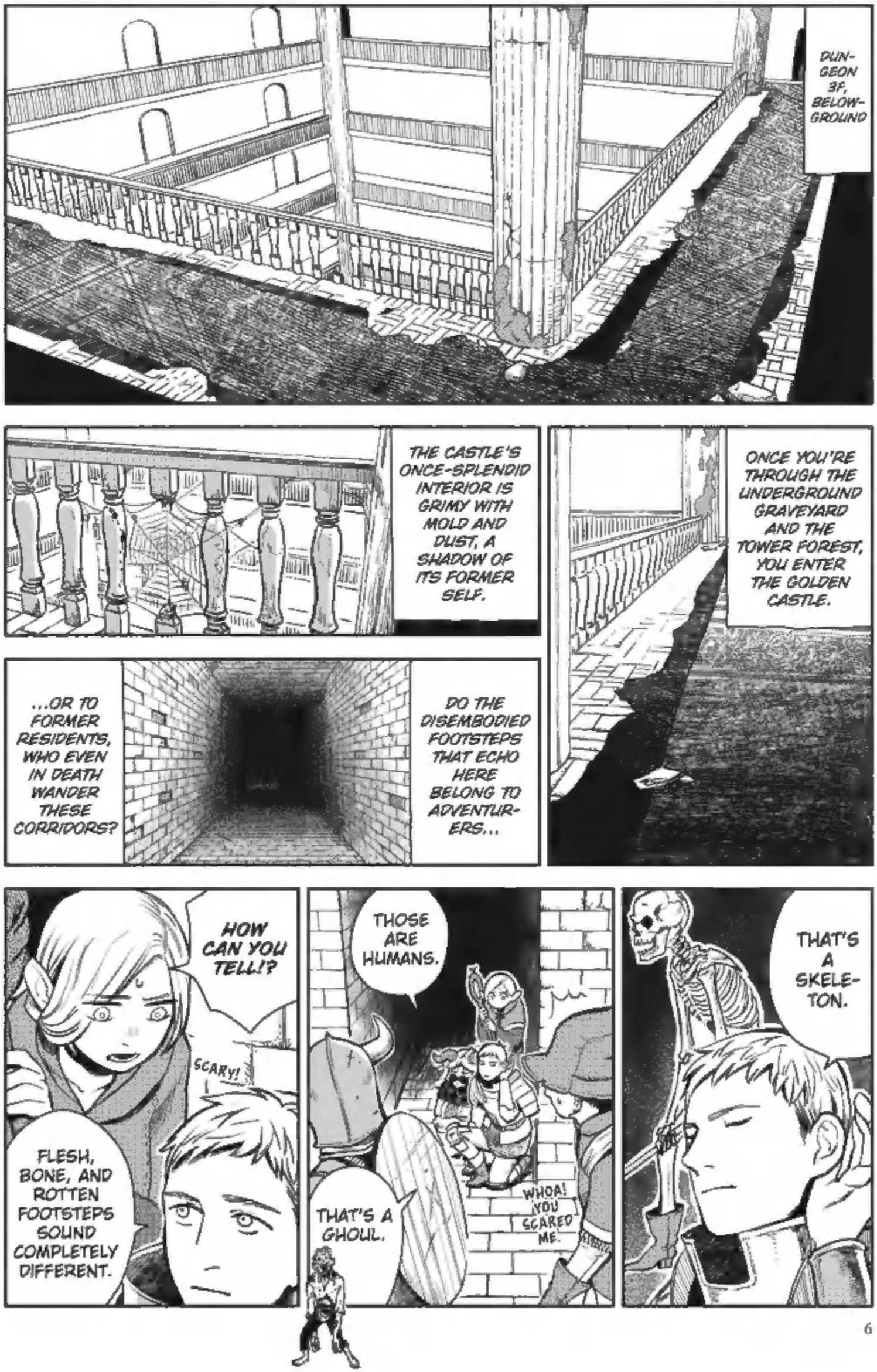
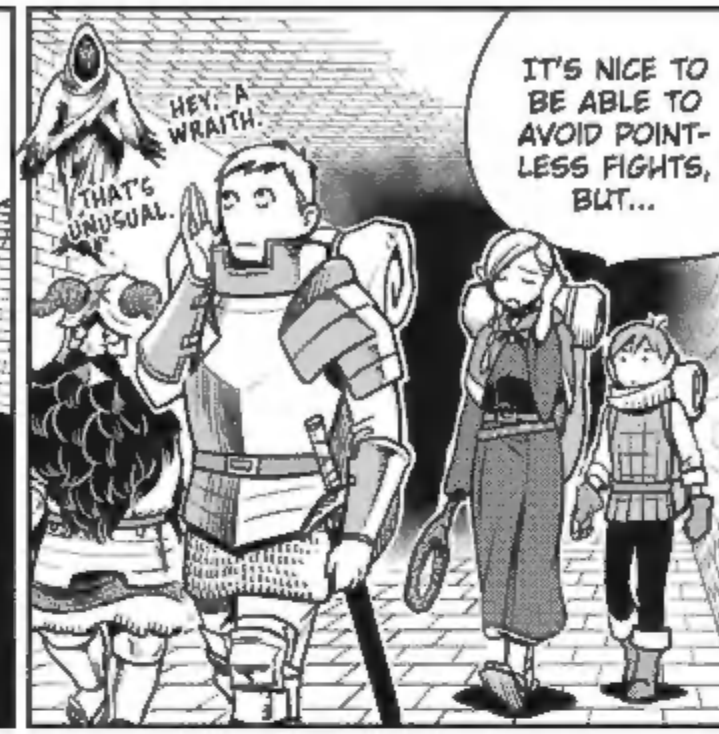
8. Stewed Cabbage


DUN-GEON 3F, BELOW-GROUND
THE CASTLE'S ONCE-SPLENDID INTERIOR IS GRIMY WITH MOLD AND DUST, A SHADOW OF ITS FORMER SELF.
ONCE YOU'RE THROUGH THE UNDERGROUND GRAVEYARD AND THE TOWER FOREST, YOU ENTER THE GOLDEN CASTLE.
...OR TO FORMER RESIDENTS, WHO EVEN IN DEATH WANDER THESE CORRIDORS?
DO THE DISEMBODIED FOOTSTEPS THAT ECHO HERE BELONG TO ADVENTUR-ERS...
HOW CAN YOU TELL!?
SCARY!
FLESH, BONE, AND ROTTEN FOOTSTEPS SOUND COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.
THOSE ARE HUMANS.
THAT'S A GHOUL.
WHOA! YOU SCARED ME.
THAT'S A SKELE-TON.

WAIT.

LET'S GO LEFT.
I HEAR THE RIGHT IS GUARDED BY GOLEMS.

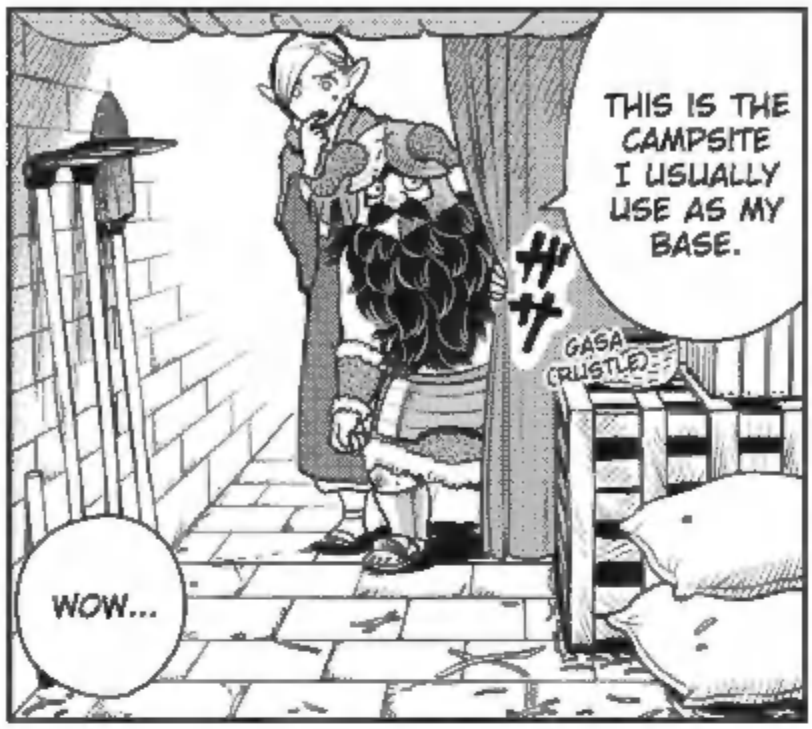

HEY, A WRAITH.
THAT'S UNUSUAL.
IT'S NICE TO BE ABLE TO AVOID POINTLESS FIGHTS, BUT...

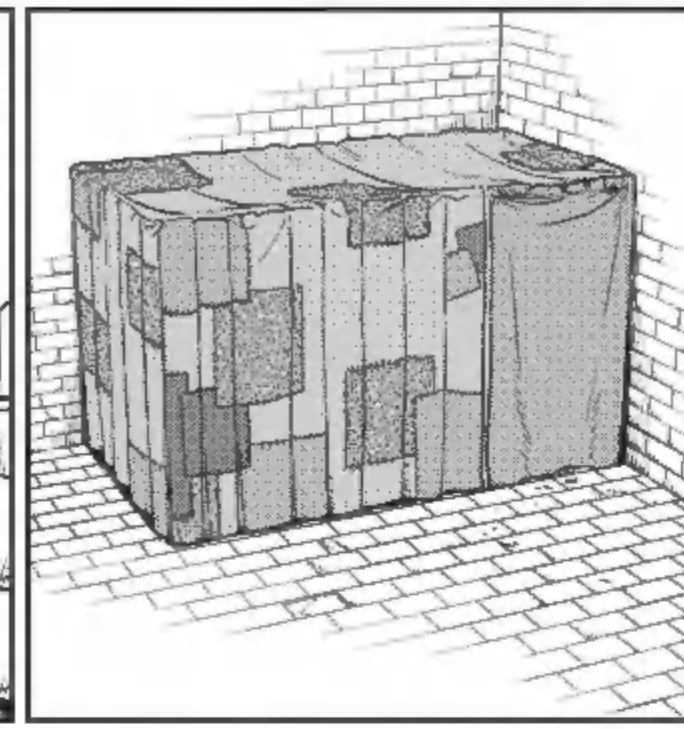
THEY'RE USED AS PUPPETS THAT FAITHFULLY OBEY THEIR MASTER'S ORDERS.
GO-LEMS —
MAGICAL, HUMAN-SHAPED CREATURES MADE OF MUD, DIRT, AND STONES.

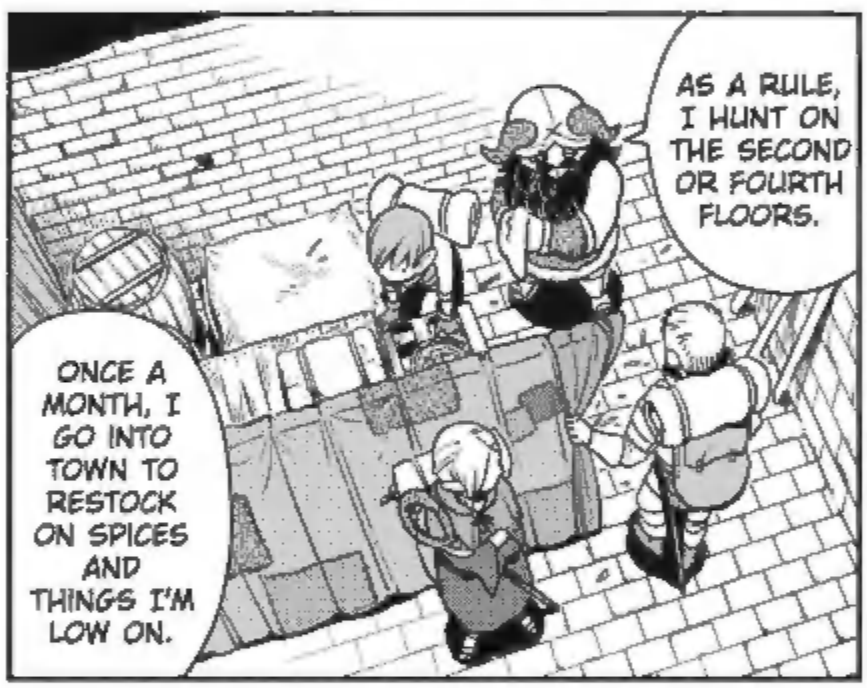
WHAT I NEED ARE THEIR BODIES.
COME WITH ME.

TEACH ME!
WHAT WOULD YOU USE IT FOR?
NO!!
SCARY.

I EVEN KNOW HOW TO MAKE THEM.
FOR THE RECORD, GOLEMS ARE GENUINE MAGICAL CREATURES!
99% DIRT!


THIS IS THE CAMPSITE I USUALLY USE AS MY BASE.
GASA (RUSTLE)
WOW...




AS A RULE, I HUNT ON THE SECOND OR FOURTH FLOORS.
ONCE A MONTH, I GO INTO TOWN TO RESTOCK ON SPICES AND THINGS I'M LOW ON.

YOU LIVE HERE?
I ALMOST NEVER STAY THE NIGHT, THOUGH.

THERE MUST BE A BETTER REASON THAN THAT.
OR
MOST OF THEM ARE ROTTING OR NOTHING BUT BONES.
THE THIRD FLOOR DOESN'T HAVE MANY EDIBLE MONSTERS.
BUT...

NOOOO!
I WAS ON MY WAY BACK FROM RESUPPLYING WHEN I RAN INTO YOUR GROUP.
OHH.

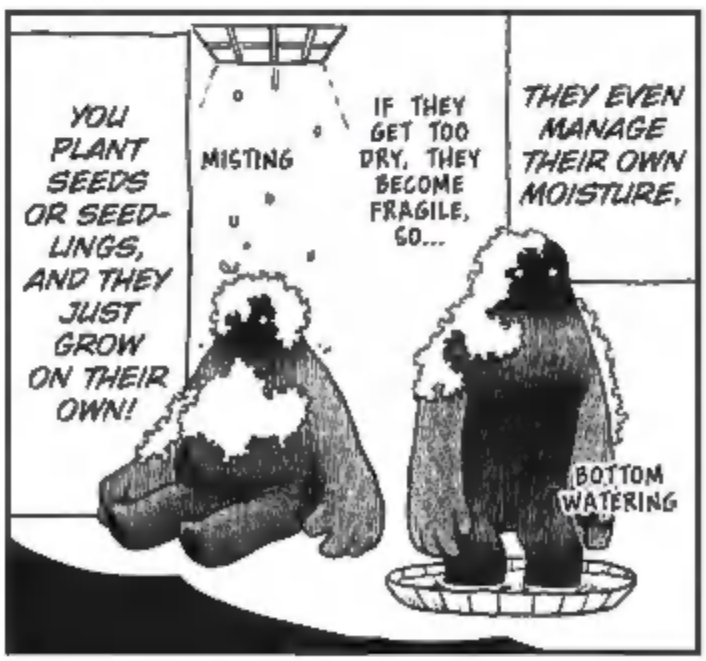
THEIR BODIES ARE RICH IN NUTRI-ENTS...
...AND THEIR INTERNAL TEMPERA-TURE AND MOISTURE ARE ALWAYS JUST RIGHT.

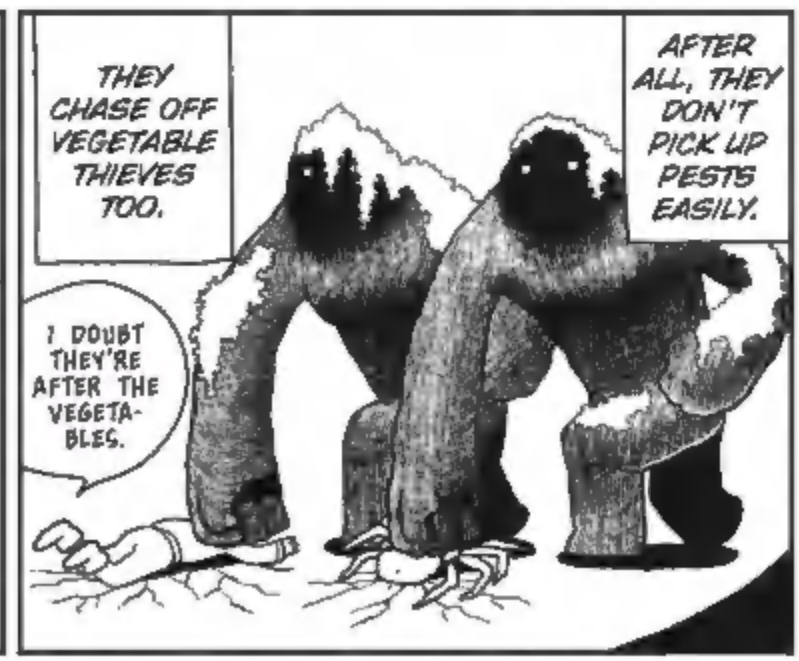
... GOLEMS!
NOW THOSE ARE SOME MARVEL-OUS CRITTERS!

I'M NOT PARTIAL TO MAGIC...
...BUT THOSE GOLEMS ARE LAUDABLE! ALL FIELDS SHOULD BE LIKE THAT.

THE MAGIC RESEARCHERS TOO.
...YOU'RE USING GOLEMS AS FARM FIELDS!?
WHY?
YOU'RE GONNA MAKE THE CASTLE PEOPLE CRY.

IN OTHER WORDS...


YOU PLANT SEEDS OR SEED-LINGS, AND THEY JUST GROW ON THEIR OWN!
MISTING
IF THEY GET TOO DRY, THEY BECOME FRAGILE, SO...
THEY EVEN MANAGE THEIR OWN MOISTURE.
BOTTOM WATERING


THEY CHASE OFF VEGETABLE THIEVES TOO.
AFTER ALL, THEY DON'T PICK UP PESTS EASILY.
I DOUBT THEY'RE AFTER THE VEGETA-BLES.

GOGO
(RMBL)

THAT SAID, FIELDS NEED TO BE TENDED.
THAT'S WHY MY BASE IS HERE.

ZUN
ZUN
(STOMP)

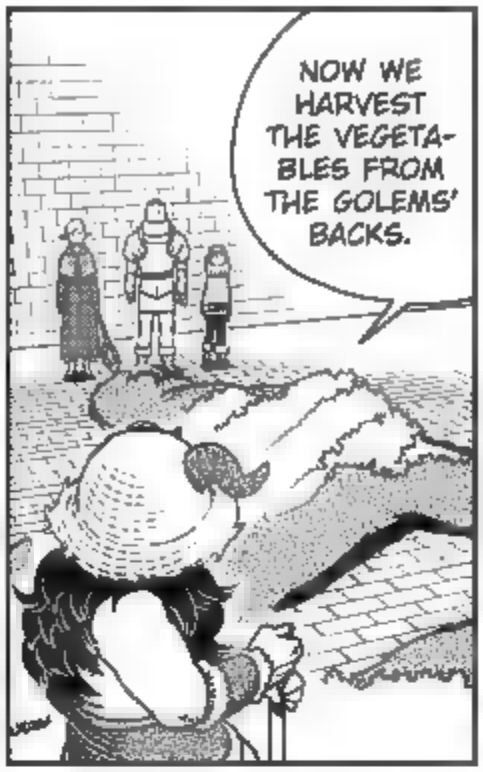
PI!!
(PWEEET)

ZUN
THERE THEY ARE!

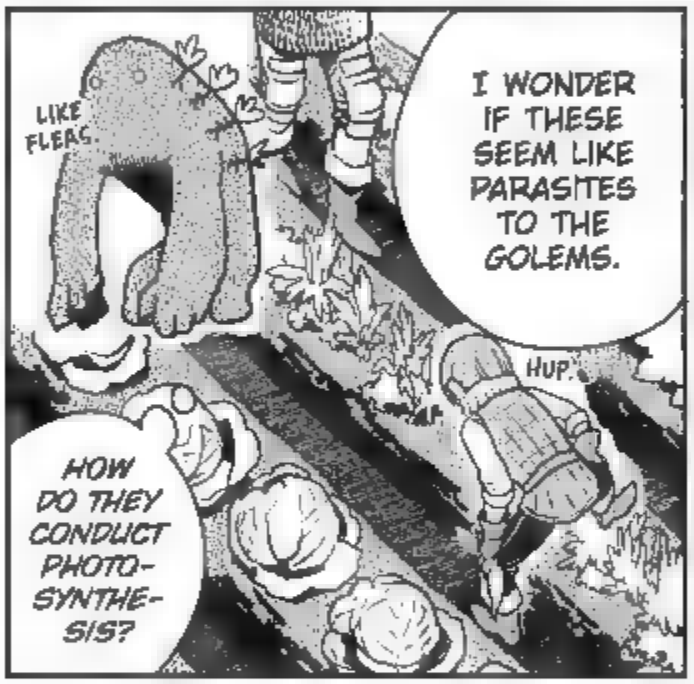
DO (THOOM)
DO
DO
SHOULD WE HELP?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
BA (LUNGE)
DON'T NEED IT.
SYAGU (SKASH)
BUON (SWIPE)
GYURUN (TWIRL)
GOOOAOO (ROOOAR)
ZAGU (SHUNK)
ZUZUN (LURCH)
BA (TMP)
BA
BA

BUON (SWIPE)
SHU (PWISH)
ZUSHI
OOOO (ROOOAR)
ZUSHI (WHUD)
GU (SHOVE)
GORO (ROLL)
.....
.....
I WONDER HOW HE KNOWS WHERE THE GOLEMS' CORES ARE.
HE'S GOOD AT THIS.
DON'T TELL ME...
WOW...
ZAGU (SHUNK)
BA (TMP)
BA
BA
BA
BAAAN (TA-DAAA)

I NOTICED THEY WERE PRETTY LEAFY, BUT...
...THESE ARE ALL VEGETA-BLES?


NOW WE HARVEST THE VEGETA-BLES FROM THE GOLEMS' BACKS.

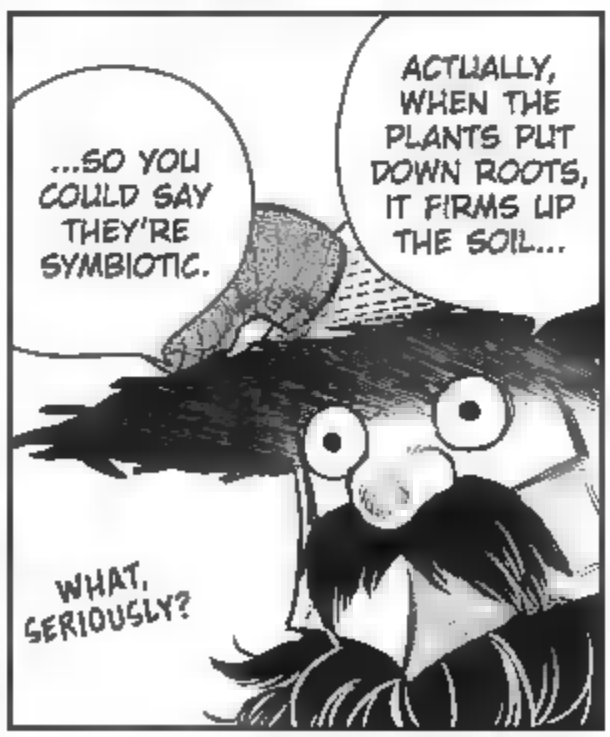
DONE.

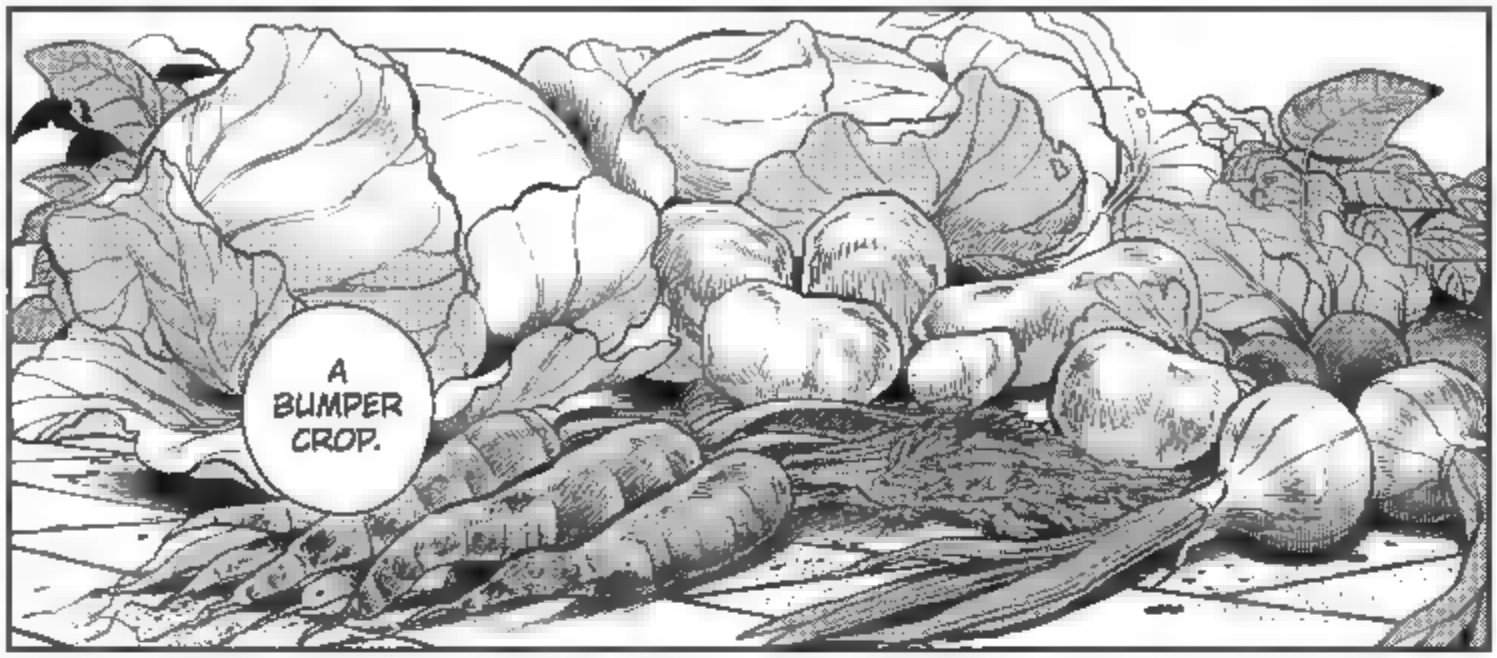

LIKE FLEAS.
I WONDER IF THESE SEEM LIKE PARASITES TO THE GOLEMS.
HUP.
HOW DO THEY CONDUCT PHOTO-SYNTHE-SIS?

ZUPO (POP)
HE'S NOT KID-DING!

WHEEZE!
HAFF!

DO PULL THE WEEDS THOUGH.


...SO YOU COULD SAY THEY'RE SYMBIOTIC.
ACTUALLY, WHEN THE PLANTS PUT DOWN ROOTS, IT FIRMS UP THE SOIL...
WHAT, SERIOUSLY?


A BUMPER CROP.

ONCE THEY'RE DRY...

IF WE PILE 'EM UP HERE, THEY'LL DRY OUT.

BRING THE WEEDS OVER HERE.
WE'LL FINALLY GET TO EAT REGULAR VEGETABLES AGAIN.

THIS IS FERTILIZER I MADE SOMEWHERE ELSE.

HM...?

...IF WE PUT THEM BACK IN THE GOLEMS, THEY'LL BREAK DOWN.

YOU KNEW WHERE THE GOLEMS' CORES WERE...

YOU KNEW WHAT?

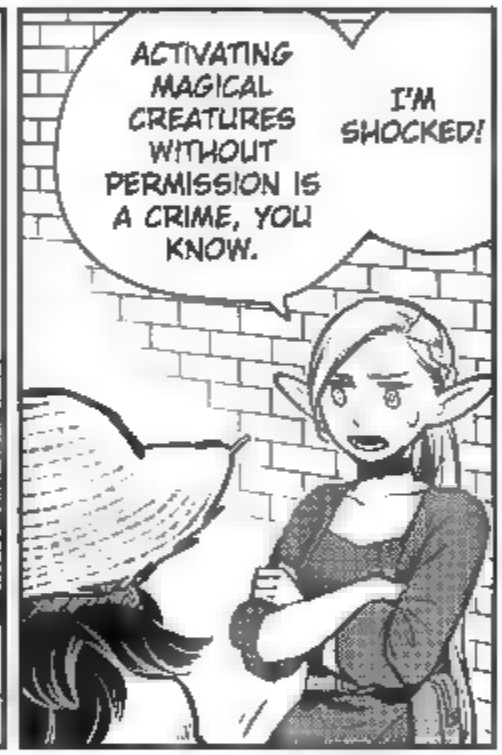
...BECAUSE YOU BURIED THEM YOURSELF, DIDN'T YOU!?

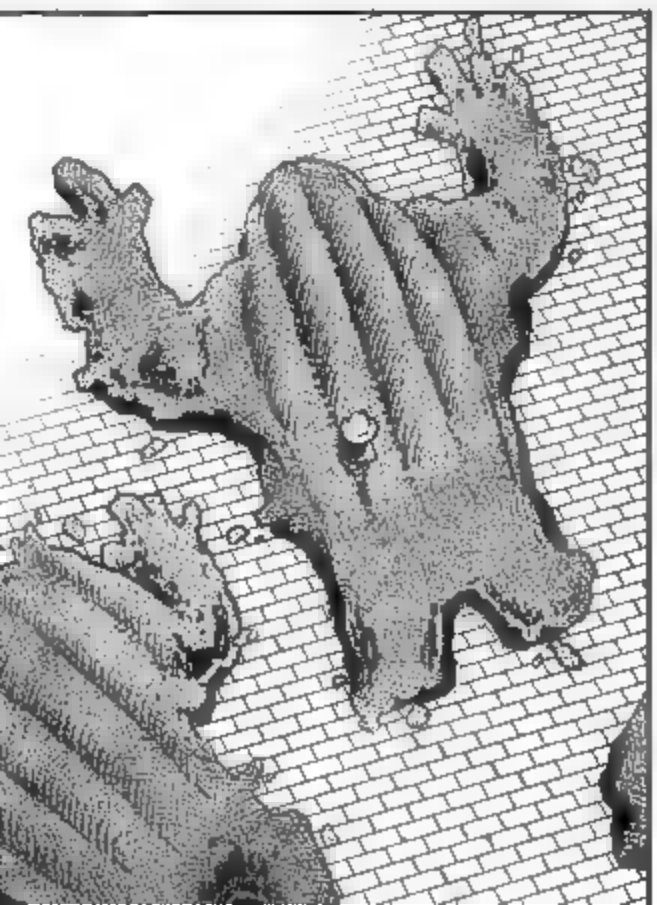
I KNEW IT!!

...INTO THE GOLEMS TOO!!

GA (SHLRP)

IT'S GOING ...





I THINK THIS TOOK MORE ENERGY THAN FIGHTING MONSTERS.
BWAH!
I'M WORN OUT!

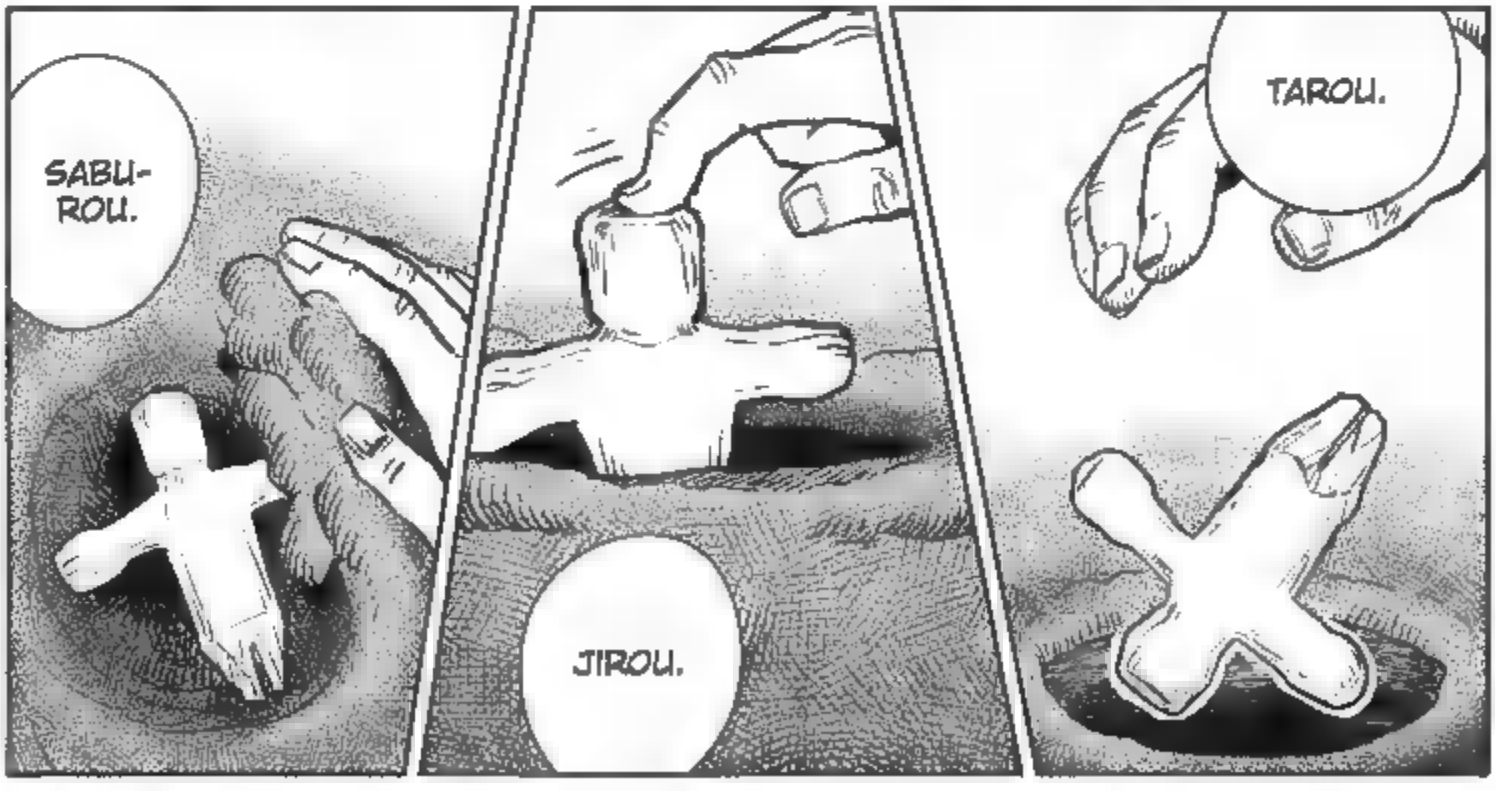
ONCE WE TOP UP OUR WATER, WE'LL GET READY FOR THE MEAL.
THANKS TO YOU, IT WENT A LOT FASTER THAN USUAL.

GOKU (GULP)
PASHA (SPLISH)
GOKU

GET THE WATER READY...
PLUG THE DRAIN.

...WE'LL COLLECT AS MUCH OF THE LOOSE DIRT AS POSSIBLE...
WHILE THE ELF-GIRL'S GONE...

I DRANK ALL THAT WATER, AND NOW I NEED A RESTROOM.
BE CAREFUL.


SABU-ROU.
JIROU.
TAROU.

IT'S AS IF THEY'RE BEING CAREFUL WITH THE PLANTS ON THEIR BACKS.

IT'LL TAKE SOME TIME.
NOT TILL RIGHT ABOUT WHEN THE SEEDS TAKE ROOT AND WON'T FALL OUT EVEN IF THE SOIL MOVES.

ONCE THOSE ARE BURIED, WILL THEY REVIVE RIGHT AWAY?
NOPE.

YOU'VE BEEN LIVING LIKE THIS, SENSHI?
WASN'T IT HARD?

THAT'S AMAZING!

YOU'RE TREATING GOLEMS WITH SUCH CARE...

THAT SHOULD DO IT.
C'MON, LET'S ENJOY THE FRUITS OF OUR LABOR.

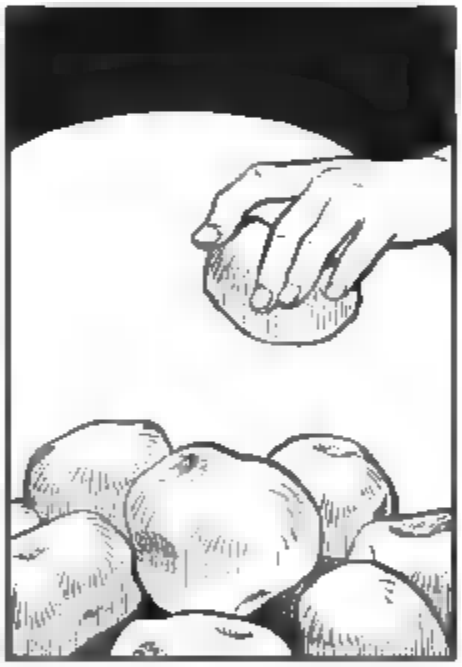
I LIVE LIKE THIS BECAUSE I WANT TO.
IT'S NOT HARD AT ALL.

WHAT A PRETTY COLOR.

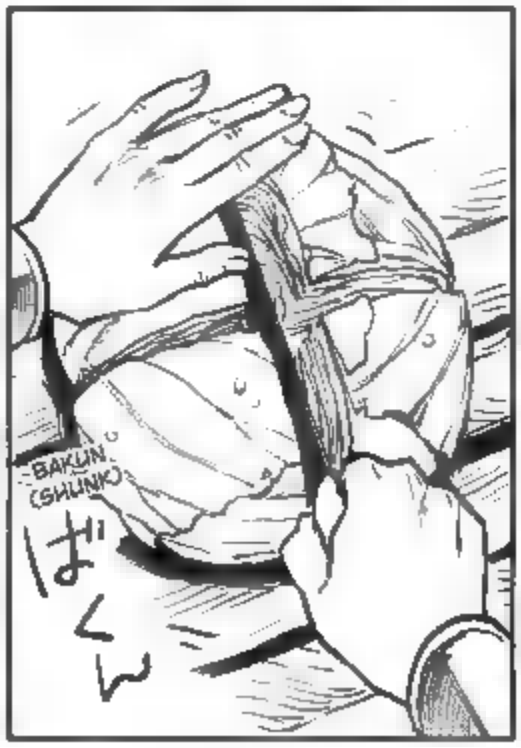
ZABU (SPLISH)

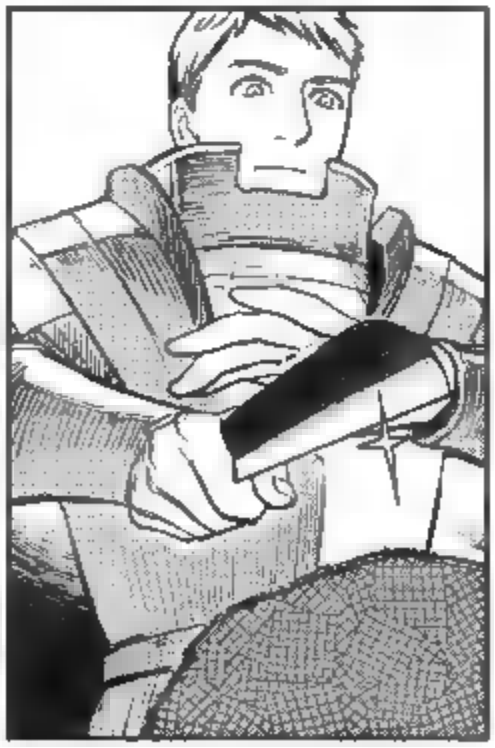
I'VE GOTTEN PRETTY GOOD AT PEELING STUFF.

ZORI
ZORI (SCRIT)

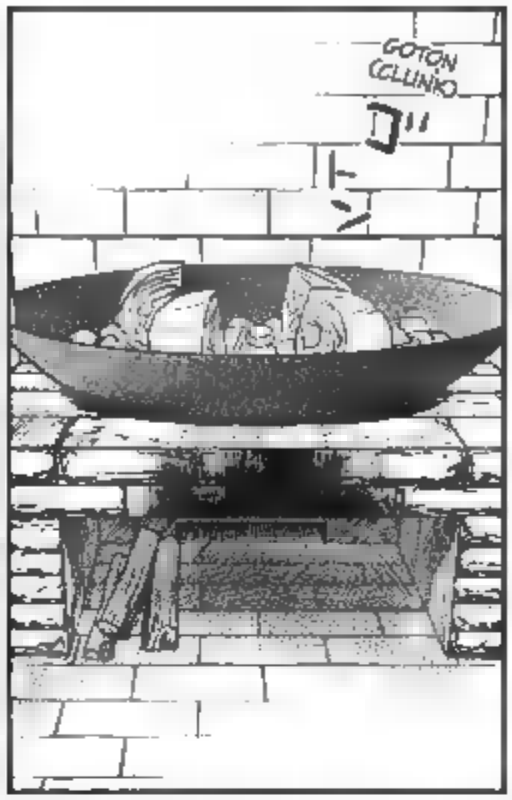


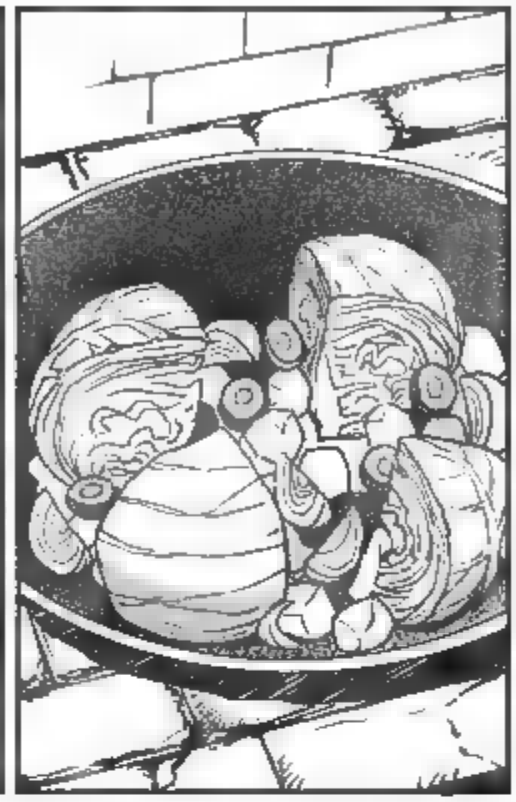
YOU'RE SURE IT'S OKAY IF THE PIECES ARE THIS BIG?
IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE.


BAKUN (SHUNK)



ZAPAA
(SPLASH)

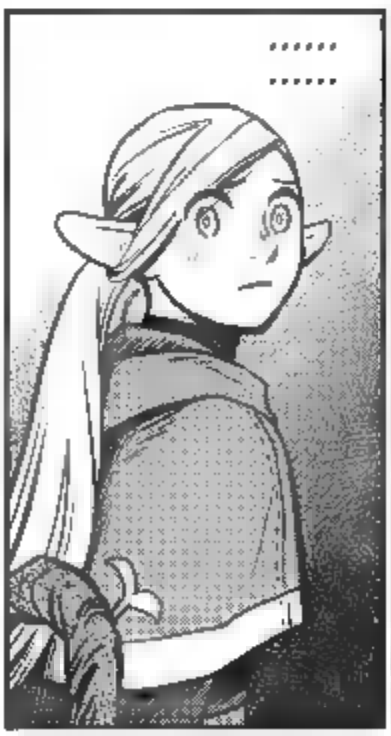

GOTON
(CLUNK)



MAGIC WOULD BE FASTER.
YOU ALWAYS DO IT THAT WAY.

NO NEED. I'LL START IT WITH A STRIKER.

LIGHTING A FIRE?
I'LL DO IT.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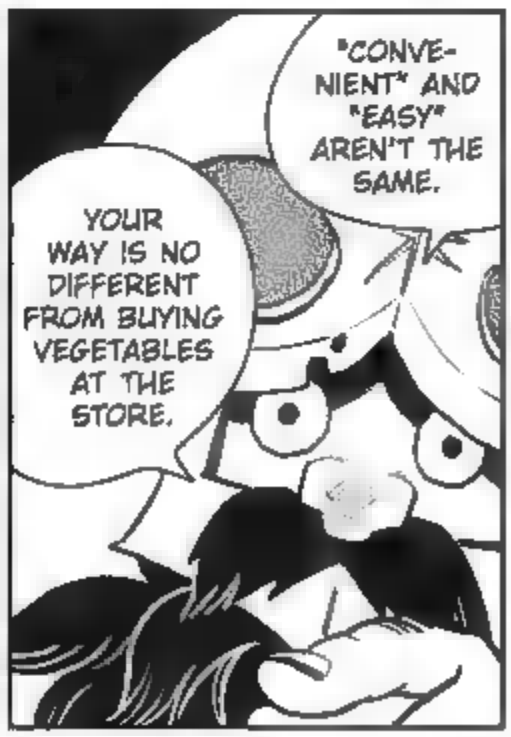
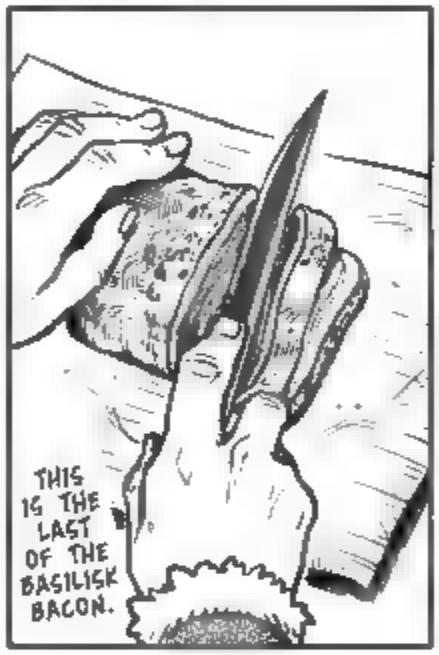

YOUR WAY IS NO DIFFERENT FROM BUYING VEGETABLES AT THE STORE.
"CONVENIENT" AND "EASY" AREN'T THE SAME.

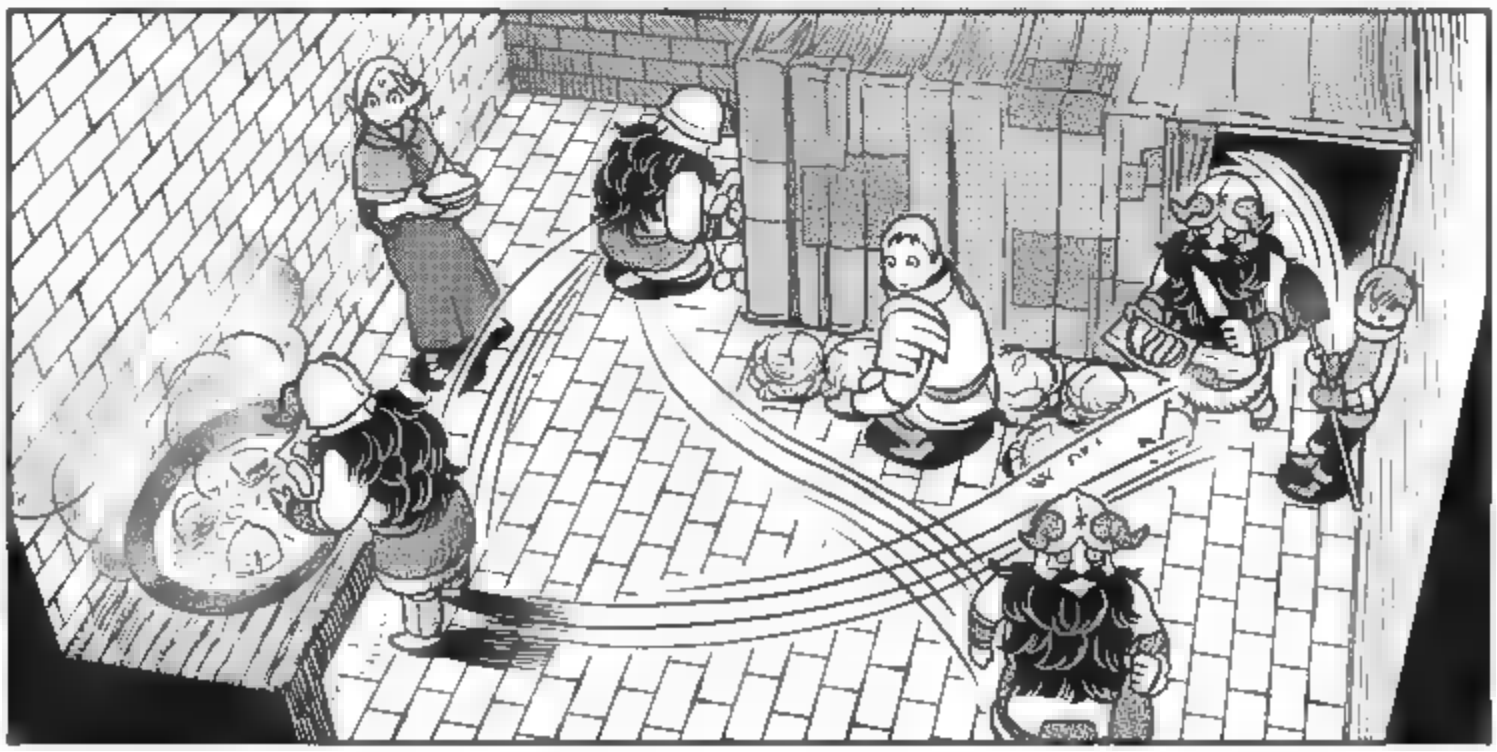
IF YOU DO THINGS THE EASY WAY, YOU GET RUSTY.
THERE'S NO NEED TO HATE MAGIC THAT MUCH.
YOU JUST SAID GOLEMS WERE CONVENIENT.

FWOO...
FWOO...

KAN
(CLACK)

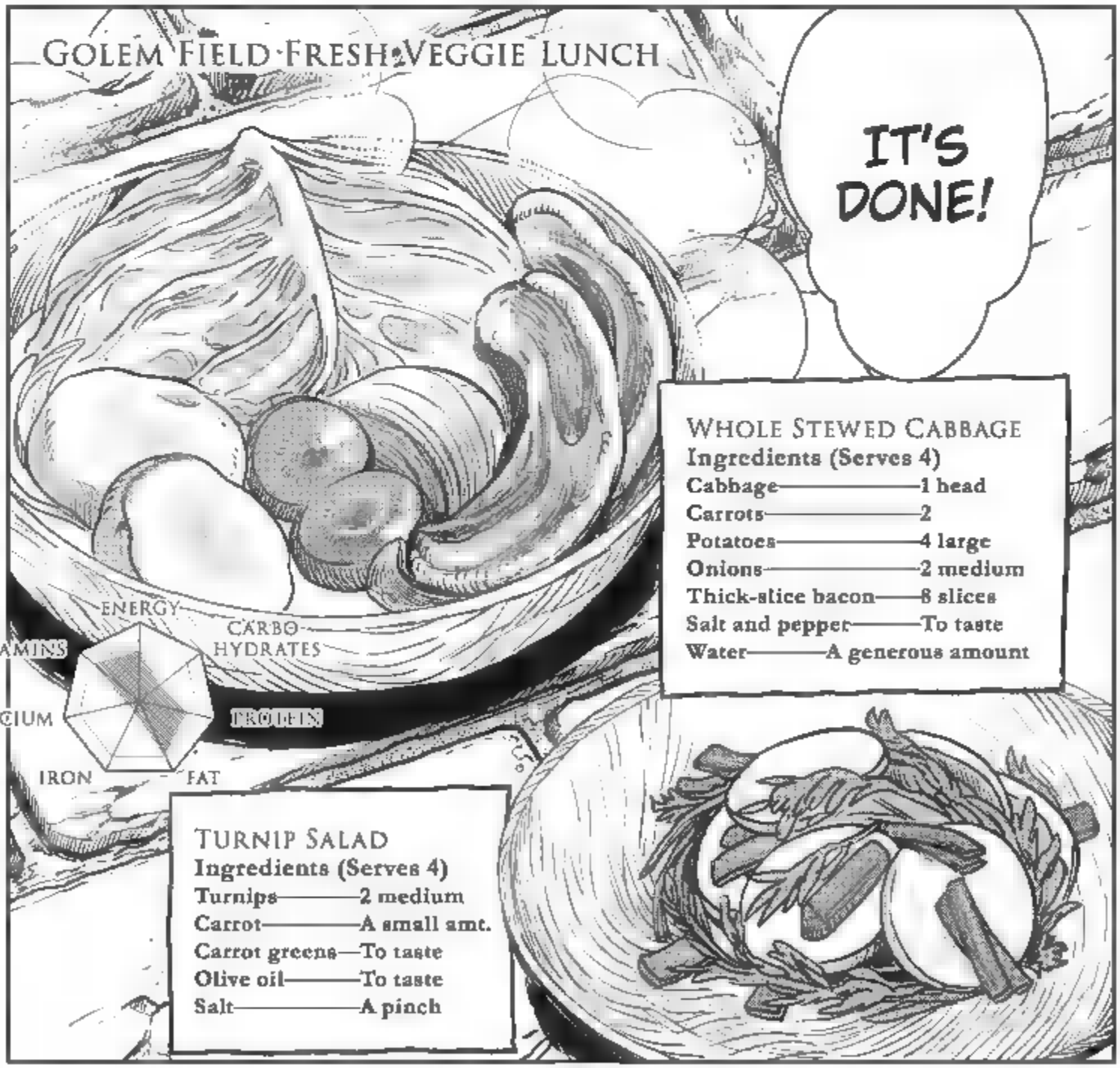

THIS IS THE LAST OF THE BASILISK BACON.

KAPA
(CLANK)



HMM...

PAKA!
(CLACK)
GUTSU
(BURBLE)
GUTSU
GUTSU


GOLEM FIELD FRESH VEGGIE LUNCH
IT'S DONE!
WHOLE STEWED CABBAGE
Ingredients (Serves 4)
Cabbage——1 head
Carrots——2
Potatoes——4 large
Onions——2 medium
Thick-slice bacon——8 slices
Salt and pepper——To taste
Water——A generous amount
ENERGY
CARBO-HYDRATES
VITAMINS
CALCIUM
PROTEIN
IRON
FAT
TURNIP SALAD
Ingredients (Serves 4)
Turnips——2 medium
Carrot——A small amt.
Carrot greens——To taste
Olive oil——To taste
Salt——A pinch

MMMM!

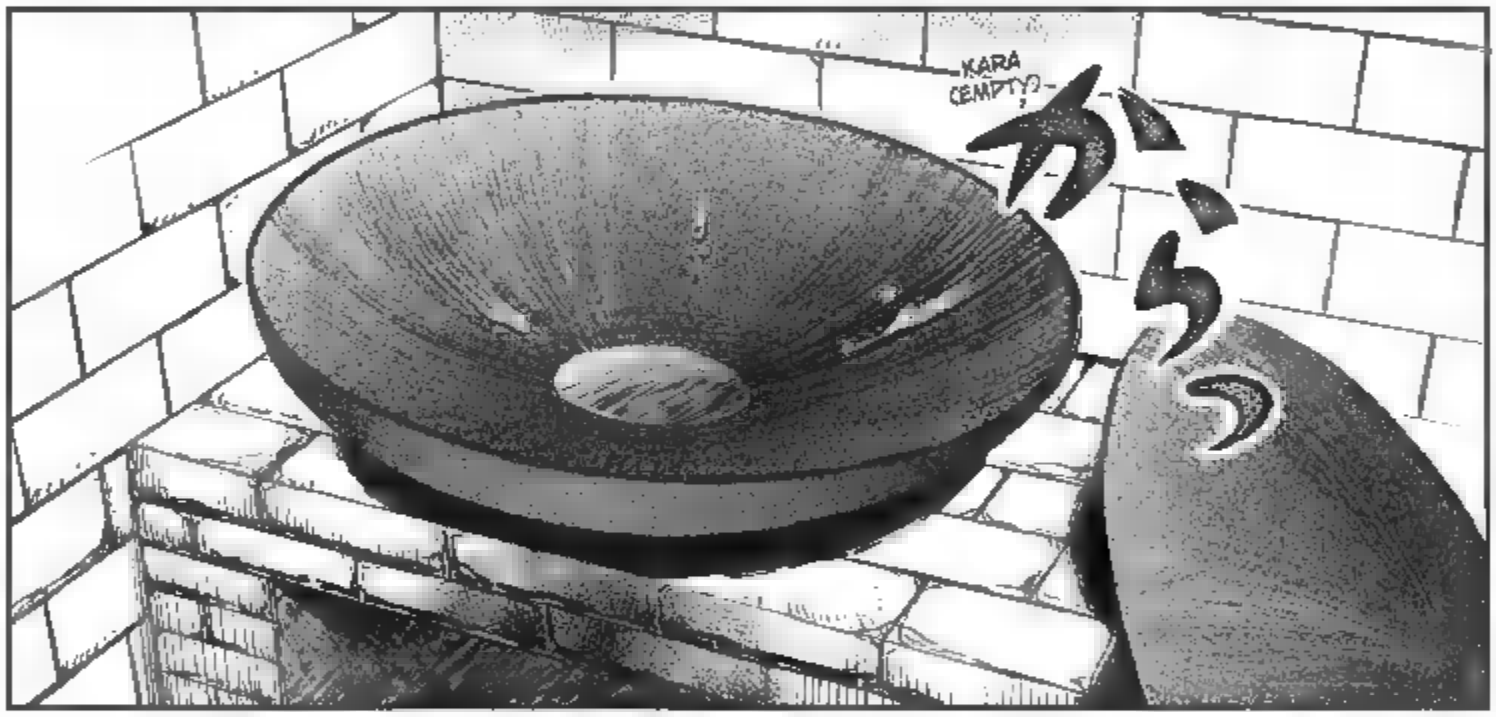
HORORI
(FLAKE)

MAYBE SOMETHING ABOUT THE GOLEMS AFFECTS THE FLAVOR.
STOP IT!
IT'S SO STRANGE THAT THEY GREW THIS WELL UNDER-GROUND.

IT'S DELI-CIOUS!!

.....
A SECRET.

COME TO THINK OF IT, WHAT'S THAT LAST 1% OF A GOLEM?
THEY MAY WALK AND ROAR, BUT THEY'RE JUST FIELDS.

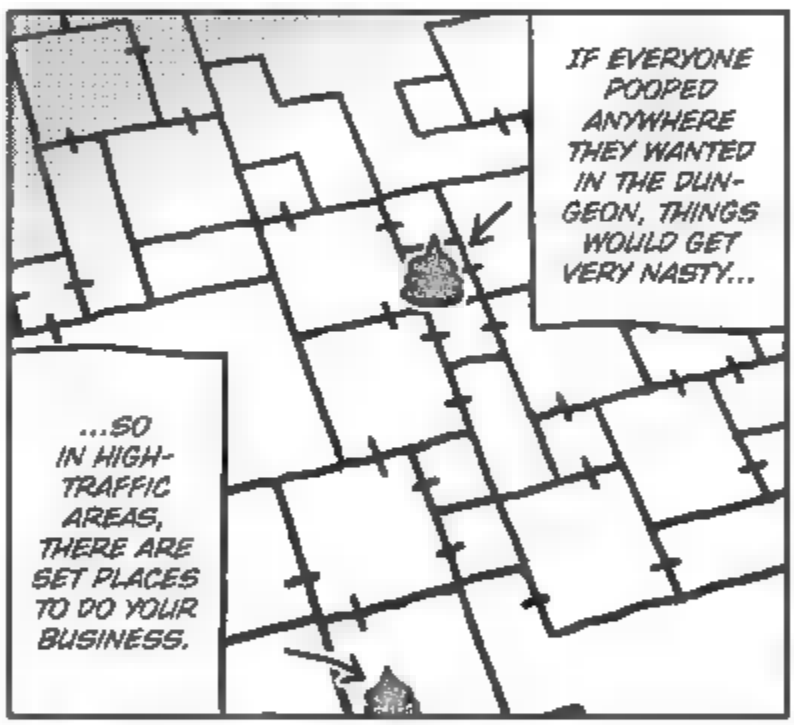

KARA (EMPTY?)
がらん

AHH, THAT WAS YUMMY!
I'M FULL.

I'M HEADED TO THE LOO.
CLEAN UP!

GOSO (RUMMAGE)
ゴソ
ゴソ
GOSO

EATING SO MUCH MADE ME SLEEPY.
YOU CAN REST A BIT.
THERE'S A LITTLE SOMETHING I WANT TO GET DONE.


IF EVERYONE POOPED ANYWHERE THEY WANTED IN THE DUNGEON, THINGS WOULD GET VERY NASTY...
...SO IN HIGH-TRAFFIC AREAS, THERE ARE SET PLACES TO DO YOUR BUSINESS.

THE TOILETS AROUND HERE ARE REALLY WELL-MADE.
THEY DON'T LOOK AS IF SOMEBODY JUST DUG A HOLE.

SOMEBODY AROUND HERE IS REALLY DILIGENT.

THEY'RE ALWAYS NICE AND CLEAN, AND SOMETIMES...
...THERE ARE EVEN VASES OF FLOWERS IN THEM.

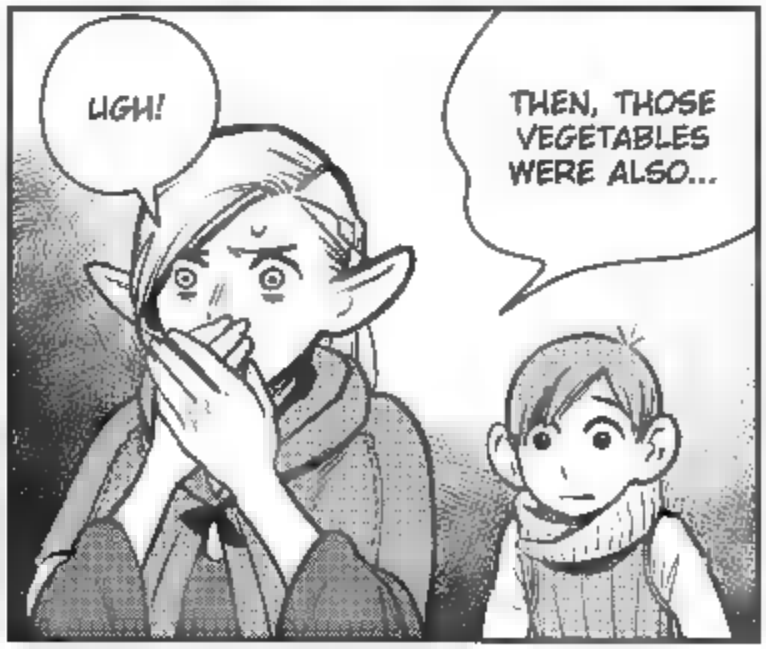
WHAT?
AUGH!

SEN-SHIII!

DOWN HERE, IT'S AN IMPOR-TANT SOURCE OF FERTIL-IZER.
RIGHT AFTER YOU'VE EATEN? WOW.

COLLECTING THE NIGHT SOIL FROM THE TOILETS FOR MY MANURE POT.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?

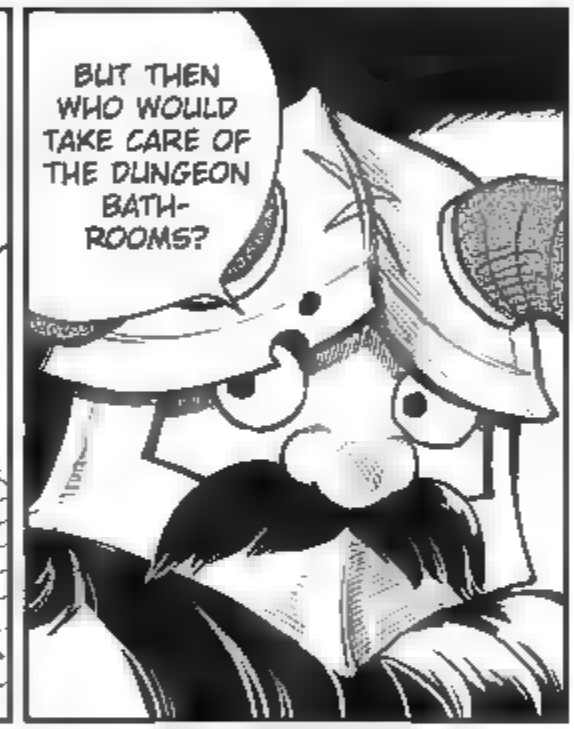
I KNOW. IT'S JUST KIND OF ICKY.
MARCILLE, THAT'S HOW IT WORKS ABOVEGROUND TOO.

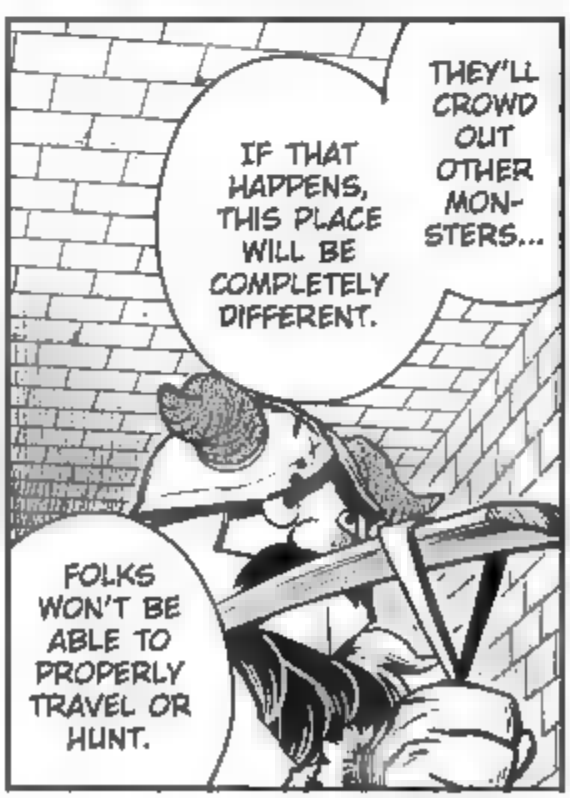

UGH!
THEN, THOSE VEGETABLES WERE ALSO...

DON'T YOU THINK IT WOULD BE EASIER TO TILL FIELDS AND HUNT OUTSIDE?
YOU COULD BE SELF-SUFFICIENT JUST AS WELL ABOVE-GROUND.
WHY DO YOU INSIST ON LIVING ■ THE DUNGEON, SENSHI?

AT ONE TIME THERE WERE MORE THAN TEN GOLEMS. NOW THERE ARE ONLY THREE.

WHO WOULD PULL OUT THE ZOMBIES THAT FALL INTO THE TOILETS?
WHO WOULD SET FALLEN GOLEMS ON THEIR FEET AGAIN?


BUT THEN WHO WOULD TAKE CARE OF THE DUNGEON BATH-ROOMS?


IF THAT HAPPENS, THIS PLACE WILL BE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.
THEY'LL CROWD OUT OTHER MON-STERS...
FOLKS WON'T BE ABLE TO PROPERLY TRAVEL OR HUNT.

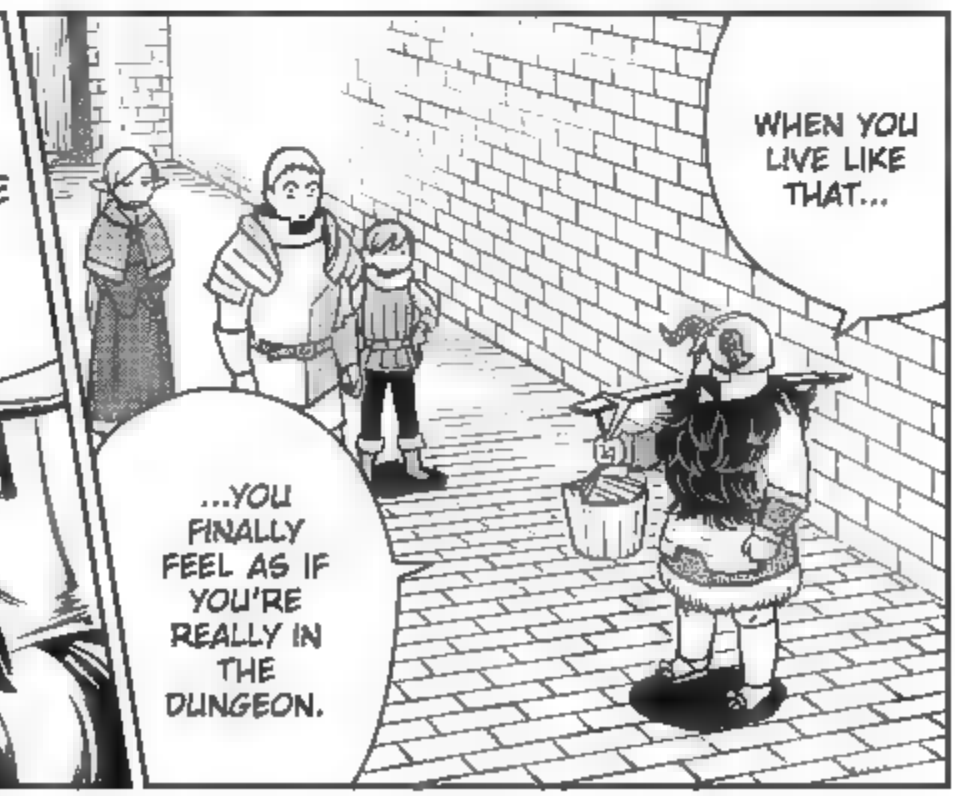
IF THE GOLEMS VANISH, MONSTERS FROM THE LOWER FLOORS WILL COME UP HERE.
THE MONSTERS THEY DISPLACE WILL GET INTO OTHER AREAS OF THE DUNGEON.

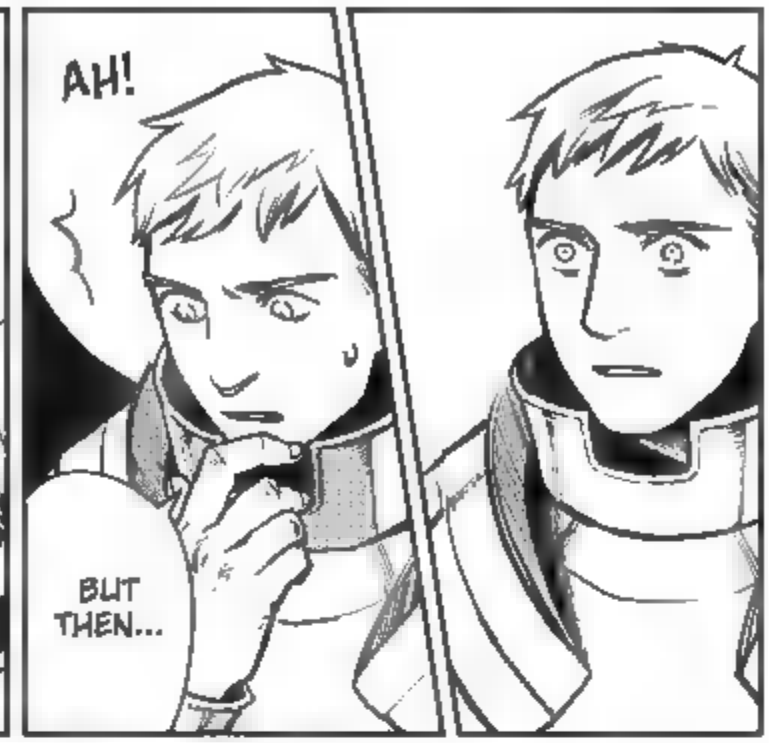
MORE THAN ANY-THING...

YOU CAN'T REAP ITS BLESSINGS BY NEGLECTING IT.
THE DUNGEON IS LIKE A FIELD.

...AND I SHARE WITH THE DUNGEON.
...I EAT WHAT GROWS HERE...

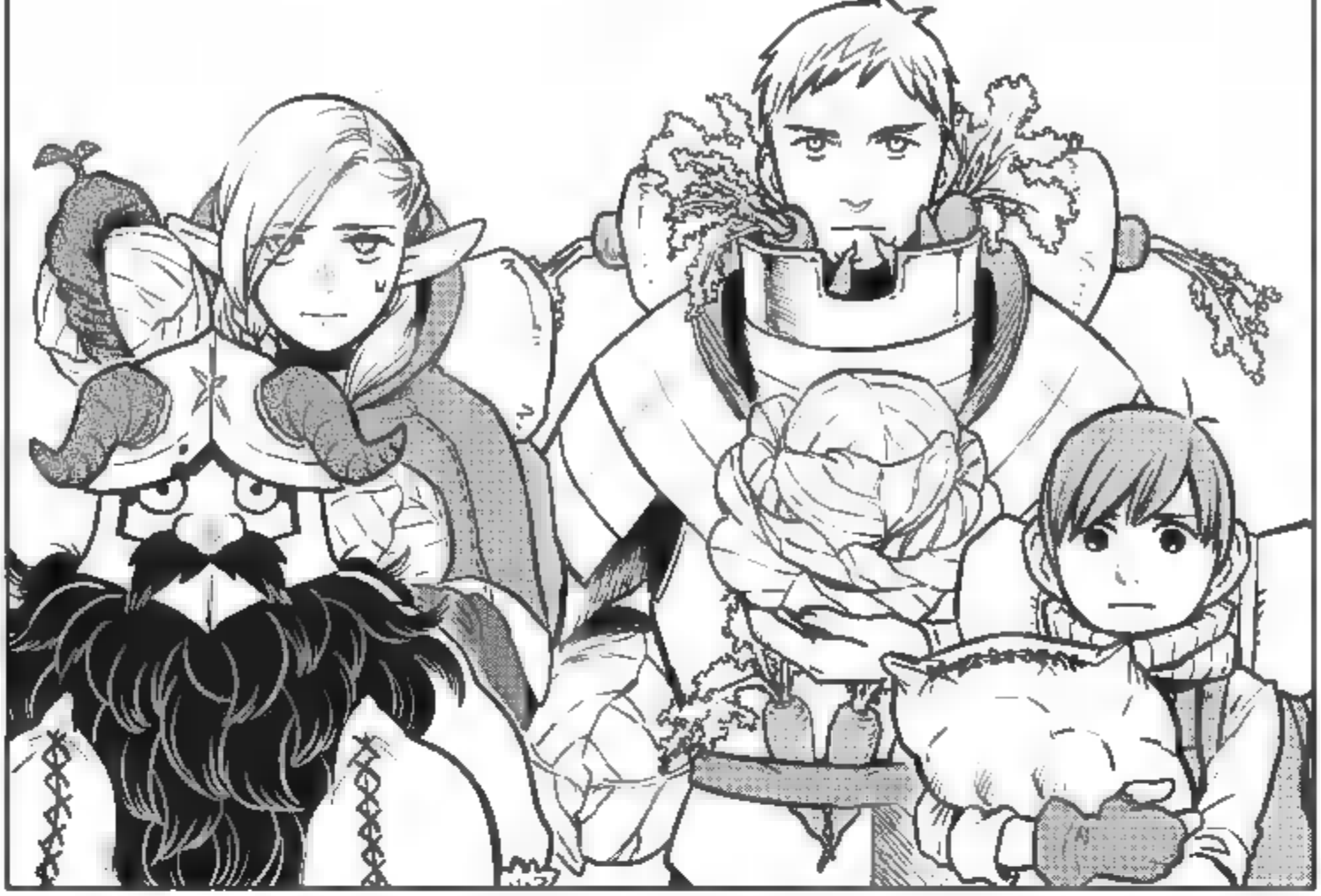
THAT MAKES ME HAPPY.


...YOU FINALLY FEEL AS IF YOU'RE REALLY IN THE DUNGEON.
WHEN YOU LIVE LIKE THAT...



CHAPTER 8: THE END

9. ORCS



WE TOOK THEM ALL AT ONCE. I USUALLY TAKE A FEW AT A TIME.
STILL, WE CAN'T EAT ALL THIS ON OUR OWN.

WHAT WILL WE DO WITH THESE VEGE-TABLES?
IT WOULD BE PRETTY DANGEROUS IF WE RAN INTO A MON-STER RIGHT NOW.

...THE MONEY ALWAYS GOT STOLEN, SO I STOPPED.
NO WONDER THAT TREASURE CHEST ALWAYS HAD MONEY IN IT.

I USED TO SET UP UNMANNED STANDS AND SELL THEM THAT WAY, BUT...

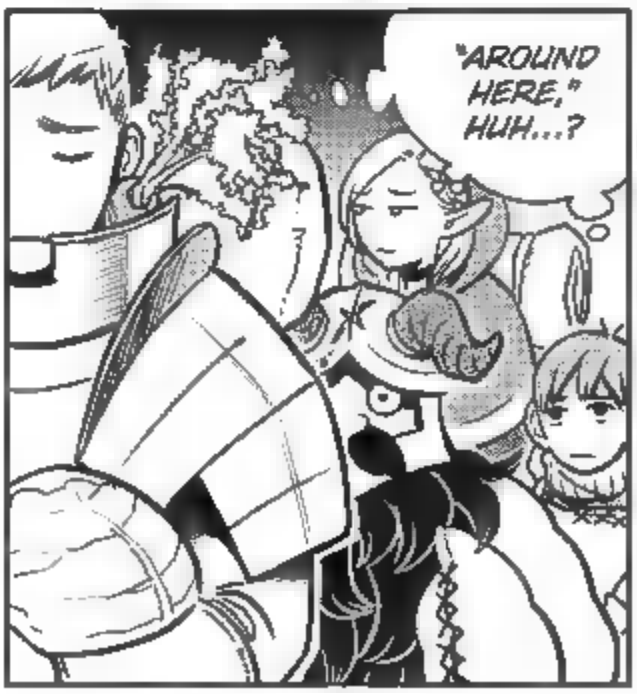
WHAT DO YOU USUALLY DO?
I BARTER WITH THEM.

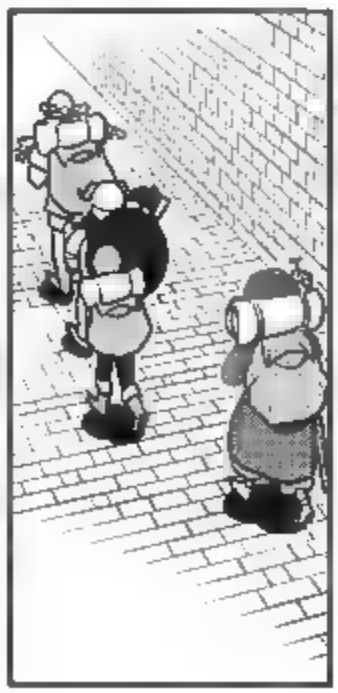
WE SET DATES, MEET UP, AND TRADE...
...BUT I DOUBT THEY'D HELP US IF WE WENT NOW.
I HAVE SOME GOOD CLIENTS A LITTLE FARTHER DOWN.
DOWN...?
GOOD CLIENTS?

DO YOU DO YOUR BARTERING NEAR HERE?
WELL, WE'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING SOON.

YOU WORKED SO HARD TO RAISE THEM!
THEY'RE SO GLOSSY AND DELI-CIOUS!
YOU GOT ATTACHED TO 'EM.
!?
WE CAN'T DO THAT! YOU CAN'T WASTE FOOD!

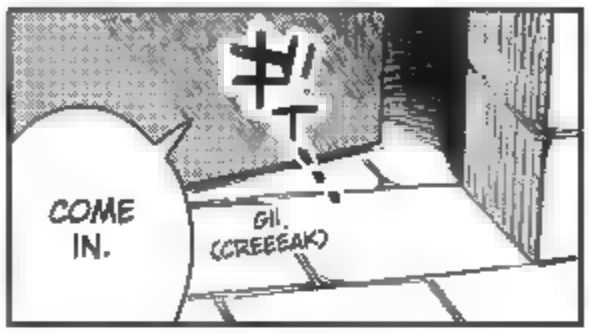
I HARVESTED ALL THESE BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO LET THE FIELDS LIE IDLE, BUT...
...IF WE CAN'T USE THEM, WE'LL JUST THROW THEM AWAY.


"AROUND HERE," HUH...?



THEN I GUESS...
...WE'LL HAVE TO BARTER THEM SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE.

JIRO (GLARE)

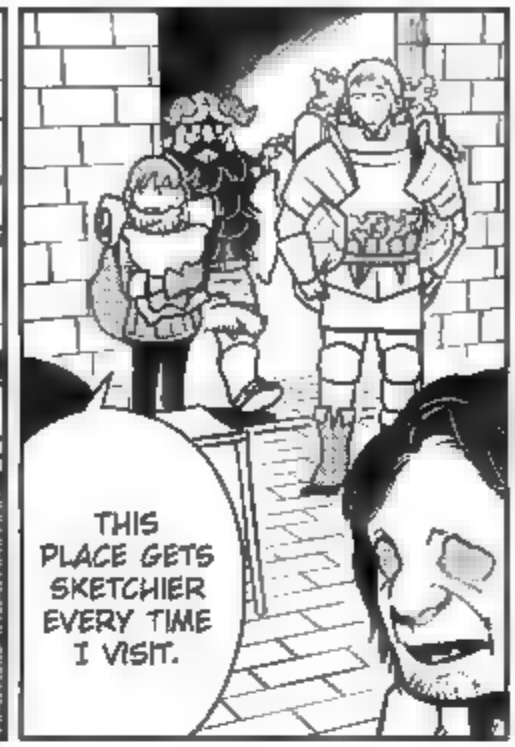

COME IN.
GII. (CREEEAK)

MOST OF THEIR CUS-TOMERS ARE...
KON
KON (KNOCK)

EVEN IN THE DUNGEON, THERE ARE MER-CHANTS.

...ADVEN-TURERS...
...AND PEOPLE WHO, FOR VARIOUS REASONS, CAN'T GO BACK ABOVE-GROUND.

WAS IT EVER NOT SKETCHY?
IT WAS BETTER THAN THIS FIVE YEARS BACK.

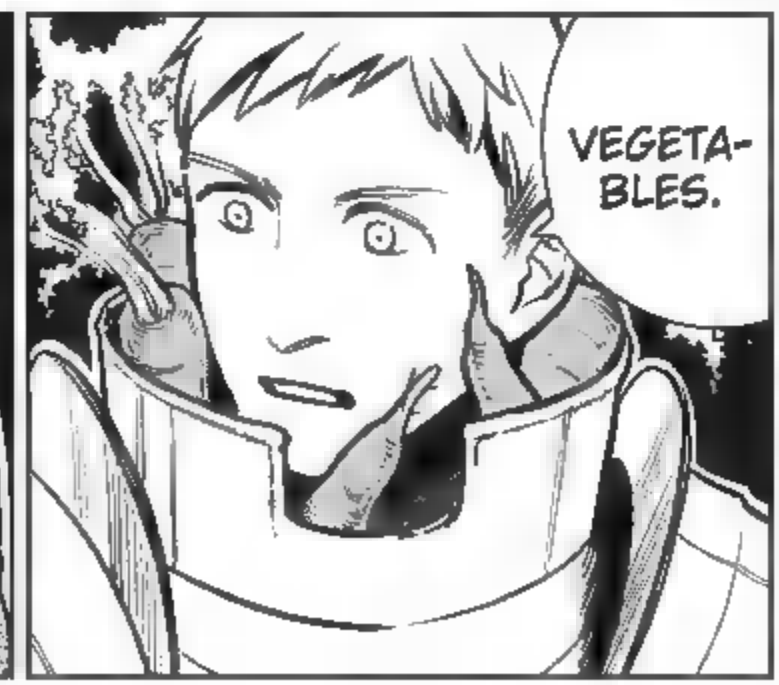

THIS PLACE GETS SKETCHIER EVERY TIME I VISIT.

IT'S SMOKY...
KOFF!

WELL, WELL. ...HEH HEH.
JIRO (OGLE)
JIRO
AND WHAT MIGHT YOU BE TRADING?

HAVE YOU COME FOR LODGING OR FOR FOOD?
TO TRADE.

ひょこ
HYOKO (HOBBLE)
HEH HEH...
WEL-COME, GUESTS.


VEGETA-BLES.

YOU MUST HAVE A KITCHEN HERE. AS INGREDIENTS...

WE DON'T WANT TO TRADE THESE FOR JEWELS.

THIS IS ROUND AND SHINY.

IF YOU WANT TO DEAL, BRING MONEY!

YOU UNDERSTAND ME? MONEY!

THE ROUND, SHINY, GLITTERY STUFF!

BAN (BAM)

GET OUT! GO ON!

WAIT. AT LEAST LISTEN TO—

BARA

BARA (TUMBLE)

WHO'D EAT THAT DISGUSTING THING!?

BASHI (WHAP)

SU (SHUF)

JUST SHOW THIS CARROT TO YOUR CHEF.

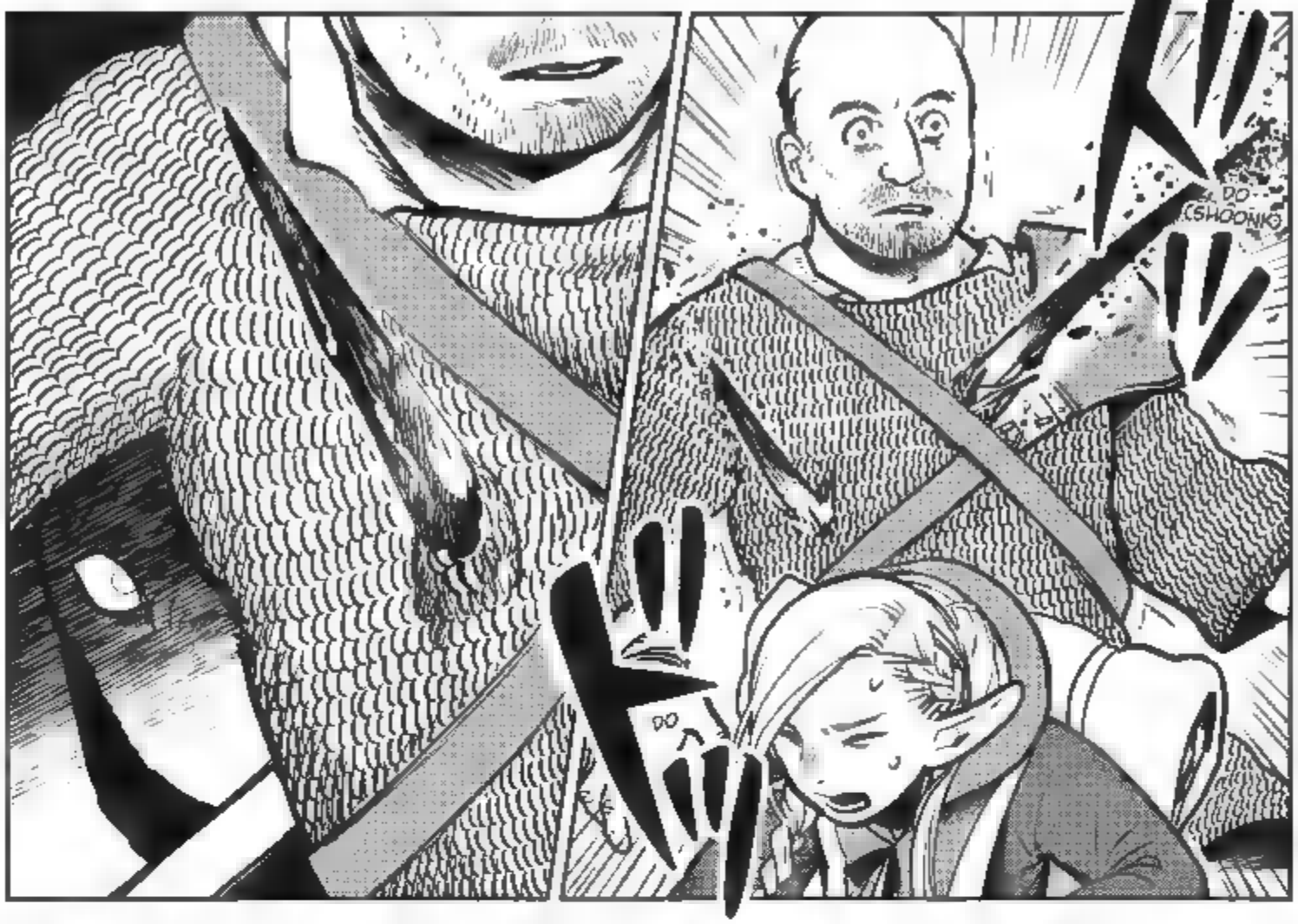
I WAGER HE'LL WANT TO COOK IT.

HURRY AND THROW THESE PEOPLE OUT!

JUST LISTEN TO—

IF YOU WASTE FOOD, YOU'LL PAY FOR IT.

HOW MEAN!


DO-
(SHOONK)
DO

O—
HUH
...!?
DOSA
(FWUMP)

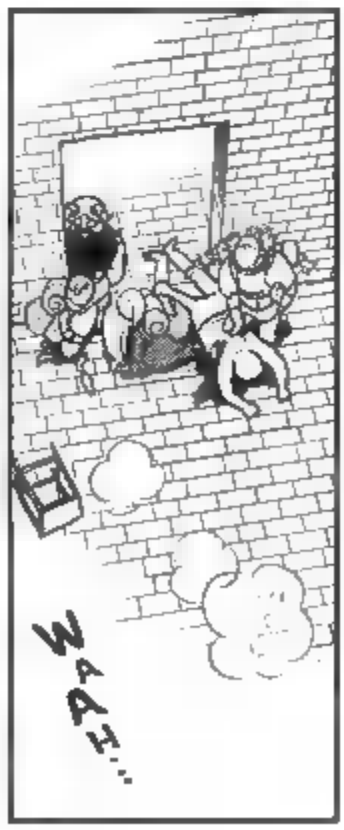
ORCS!

LEAVE NO SURVI-VORS!
KILL THE ONES WITH WEAPONS FIRST!

EEEEEE!

NEVER MIND THAT—WE HAVE TO RUN!
ZUN (TROMP)

WHY ARE THERE SO MANY ORCS HERE...?
THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE IN THE DEEPER LEVELS...


WAIT...

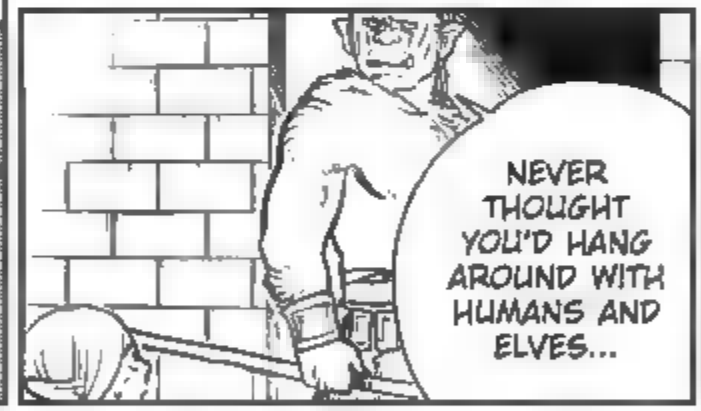
NU (LOOM)
WAI—!
WAIT.
GASHIRI (GRAB)
POSU (TUMP)
KURU (SPIN)
KURU
PON (TOSS)

I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU THE SAME THING.

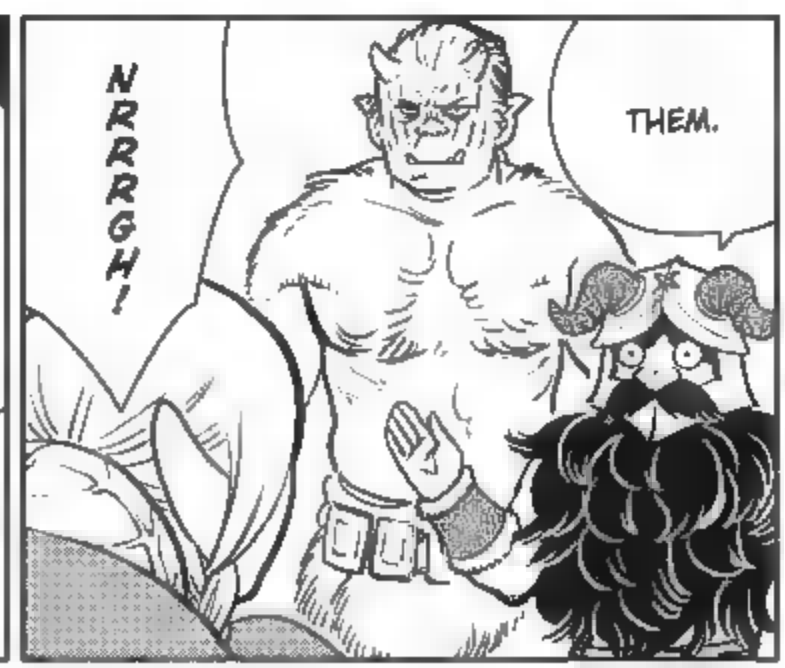
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, SENSHI?

DON'T TELL ME YOUR GOOD CLIENTS ARE...

ARE THESE YOUR FRIENDS?
YEP.


NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D HANG AROUND WITH HUMANS AND ELVES...

I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE KOBOLDS.
I THOUGHT IT WAS PROBABLY SOMETHING LIKE THAT, BUT ORCS?
I FIGURED GOBLINS, TOPS.


NRRRGH!
THEM.

THE RED DRAGON APPEARED.

WHAT'S THIS? ROTTEN MILK?
THROW IT OUT.

GOOD.
CHIEF, WE'RE DONE INSIDE.
TAKE ANYTHING THAT LOOKS USEFUL.

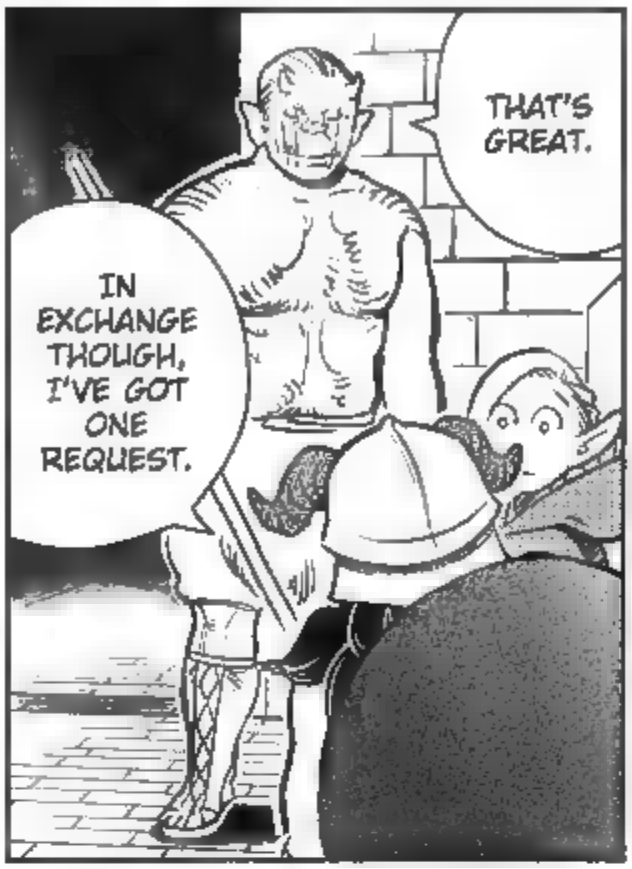
BARTER? IN THAT CASE, WE—
NO.

AS YOU CAN SEE, WE'RE LAYING IN STORES.
GACHA CLANKO
IF YOU COULD, SHARE THOSE WITH US.

...YOU GREW THOSE CROPS, RIGHT?

I HATE TO ASK IT OF A FRIEND, BUT...
...WOULD YOU GIVE US ALL YOUR CARGO?

I TOLD YOU. WE'RE HARD-PRESSED RIGHT NOW.


THAT'S GREAT.
IN EXCHANGE THOUGH, I'VE GOT ONE REQUEST.

...ALL RIGHT.
HAAAH...

.....
S-SENSHI...

IF YOU ALLOW THAT...
...WE'LL GIVE YOU ANYTHING—OUR VEGETABLES OUR LIVES—WITHOUT A FUSS.
LET US STAY AT YOUR CAMP TONIGHT.

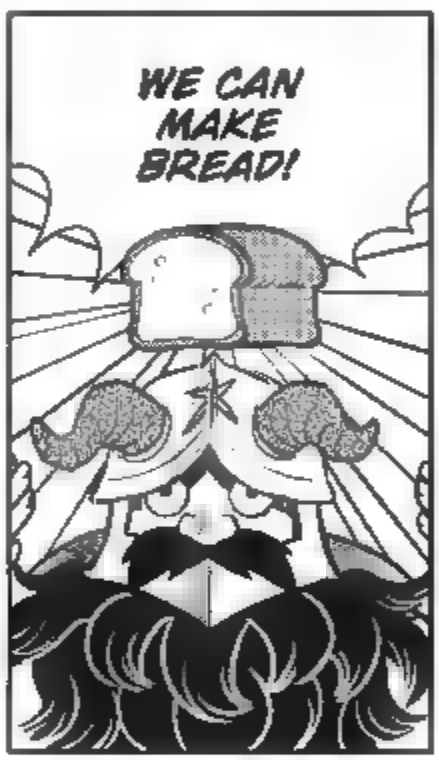
HUH?

THAT ISN'T ROTTEN! IT'S FER-MENT-ING!
ABSO-LUTELY TAKE IT BACK WITH YOU!
BISHI (SLAP)
AND YOU!

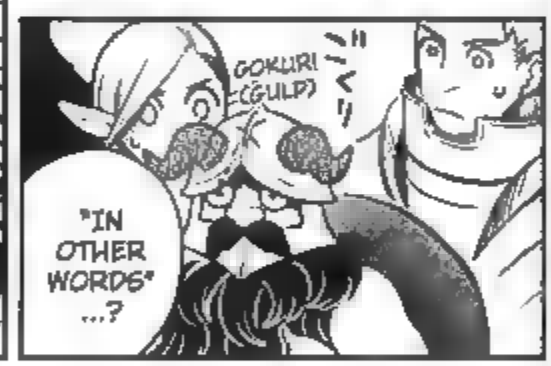
WHAA!

YOU HAVE SOME SORT OF PLAN, DON'T YOU?
MM...

THEY TOOK OUR WEAPONS TOO...
WHY DID YOU SAY THAT!?
IF WE LEARN WHERE THEY'RE CAMPED, WE'LL NEVER SEE THE SKY AGAIN.

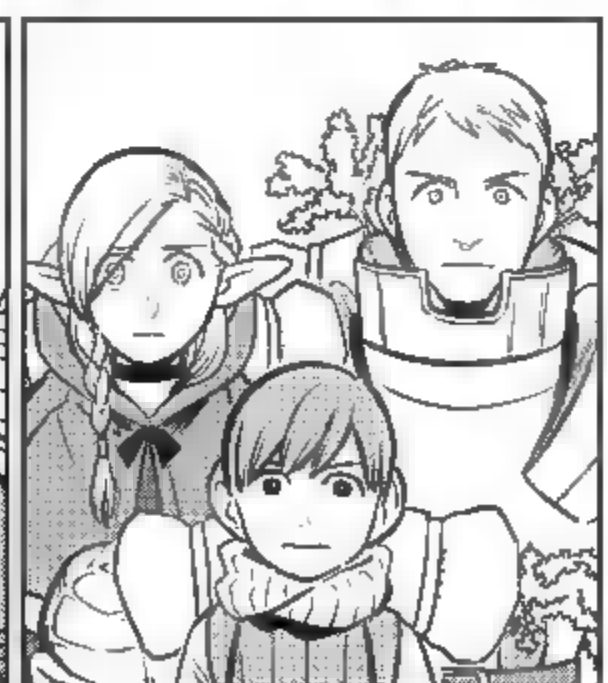

WE CAN MAKE BREAD!

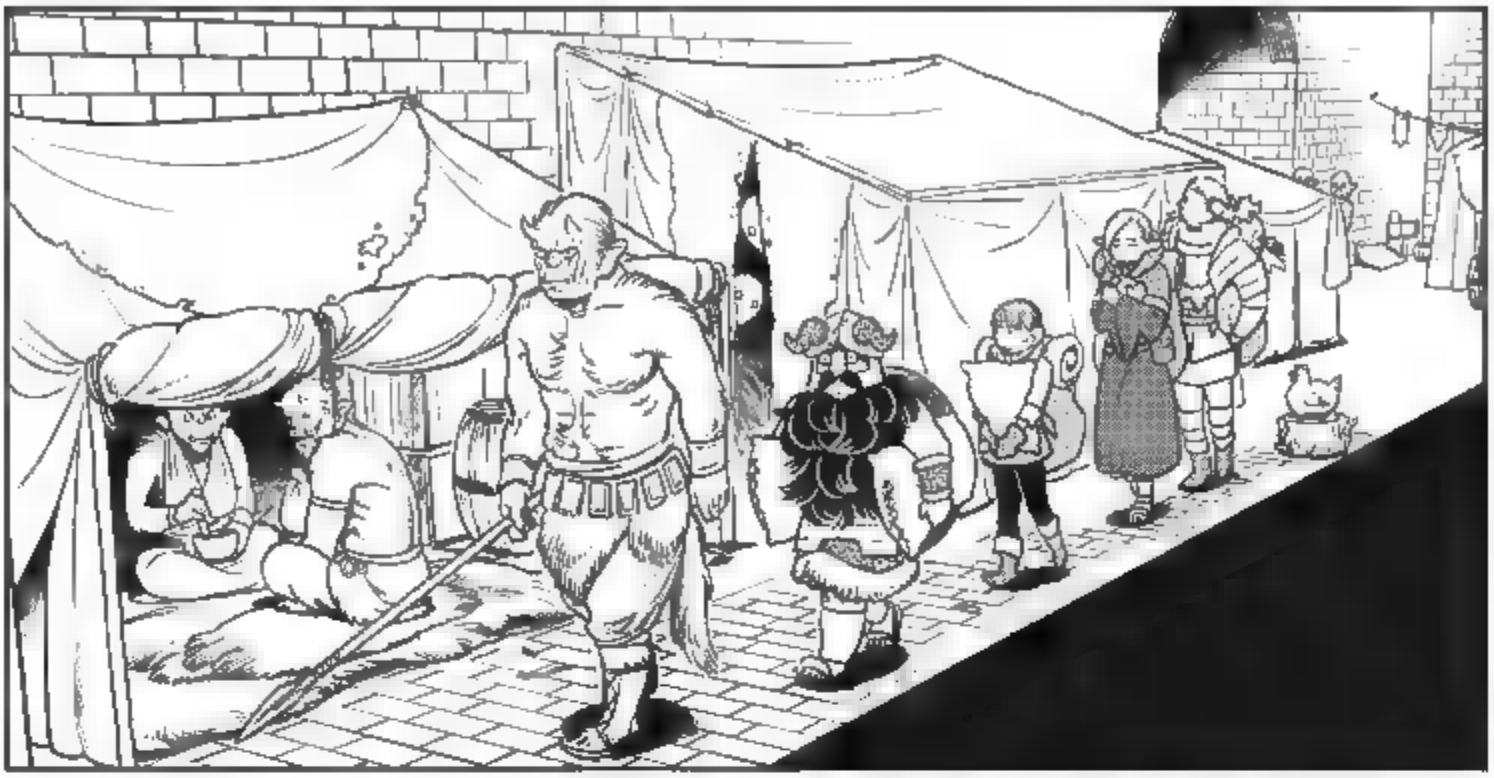
AND THE ORCS TOOK THE FLOUR FROM THE KITCHEN.
IN OTHER WORDS...


GOKURI (GULP)
"IN OTHER WORDS" ...?

THAT BOTTLE I TOLD THE ORC TO TAKE ALONG A MINUTE AGO...
THAT'S BREAD STARTER MADE FROM YEAST.

YOU JUST WANTED TO [redacted] BREAD!?
DUMMY! DUMMY!
SO YOU DON'T HAVE A PLAN!?
DUMMY!
DUMMY!
HEY! QUIET [redacted] THERE!





STAY INSIDE THIS FENCE.

DADDY'S BACK!
SHH!

IT'S AN ELF.
WHAT A SAVAGE FACE.

IF YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO USE IT, IT'LL GO TO WASTE.
HAND IT OVER. I'LL MAKE YOU SOME BREAD.

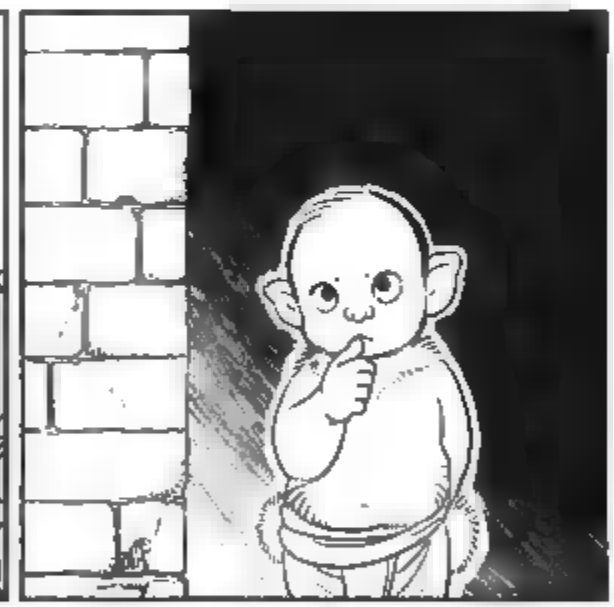
DON'T TELL ME THE PUNCHLINE IS "YOU'RE WHAT'S ON THE MENU TODAY."
'SCUSE ME. WHERE DID THE BREAD STARTER GO?

.....
KEEP WORKING IT UNTIL IT FIRMS UP.
ネチャ
ネチャ
NECHA... (SPLITCH)
NECHA

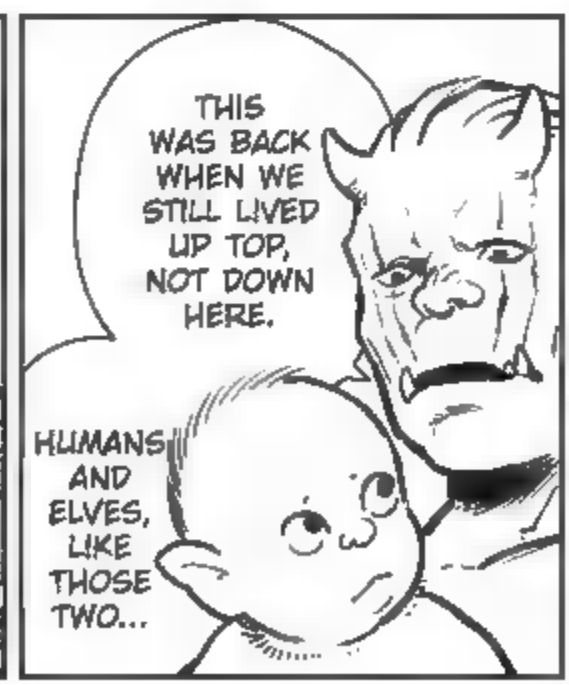
MIX TOGETHER BREAD FLOUR, SALT, SUGAR, THE STARTER, AND WATER.
ZAZAA (SHFFFF)

HYOI (HOIST)
ひょい

DOKI (BADMP)
ドキ
ARE YOU PLAYIN' IN THE MUD?
HUH?

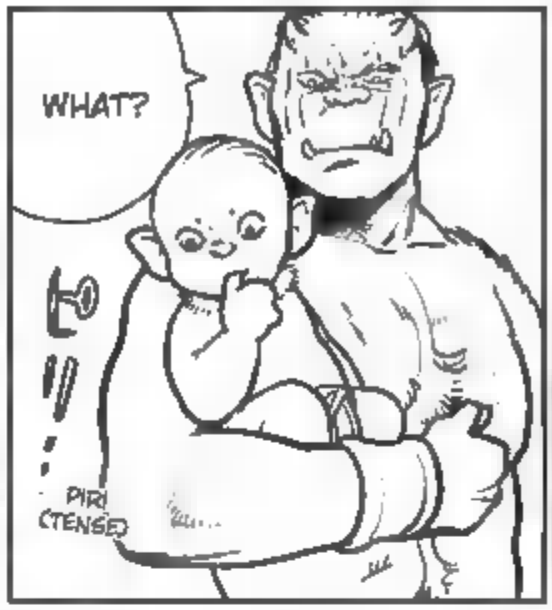


...KILLED LOTS OF OUR FRIENDS AND STOLE OUR LAND.


THIS WAS BACK WHEN WE STILL LIVED UP TOP, NOT DOWN HERE.
HUMANS AND ELVES, LIKE THOSE TWO...

LET'S HAVE A LITTLE HISTORY LESSON, HM?

NOW WE ADD OLIVE OIL.


WHAT?
PIRI (TENSE)

ORCS KILLED LOTS OF THE OTHER RACES TOO.
BOSO (MUTTER)

...UNTIL THEY FOUND US AGAIN.
TO KNEAD THE DOUGH, HOLD IT BY ONE END AND WHACK IT AGAINST SOMETHING.

FOR A WHILE, WE HAD PEACE.
CHASED FROM ABOVEGROUND, WE WANDERED UNTIL WE FOUND A PLACE UNDER THE EARTH.

THAT'S BECAUSE YOU KEPT PLUNDERING OTHER RACES' VILLAGES, AND YOU KNOW IT!

BACHIN (THWAP)

THEY POURED OIL UNDER-GROUND AND SET FIRE TO IT.

STOP IT, MARCILLE.

THAT'S ENOUGH...

WE HAD TO DO THAT TO SURVIVE.

YOU DID THAT EVEN BEFORE YOU CAME DOWN HERE. THAT'S WHY YOU GOT CHASED OUT.

BA (GRAB)

GIMME THAT. I'LL DO IT.

KNEAD THAT HARDER!!

SHUT UP, HALF-FOOT!

SORRY.

GU (CRINGE)

YES, SIR.

ONCE IT'S NICE AND ELASTIC, IT'S TIME FOR THE FIRST RISE.

THE VILLAGERS ABOVE IT FOUND IT FIRST.

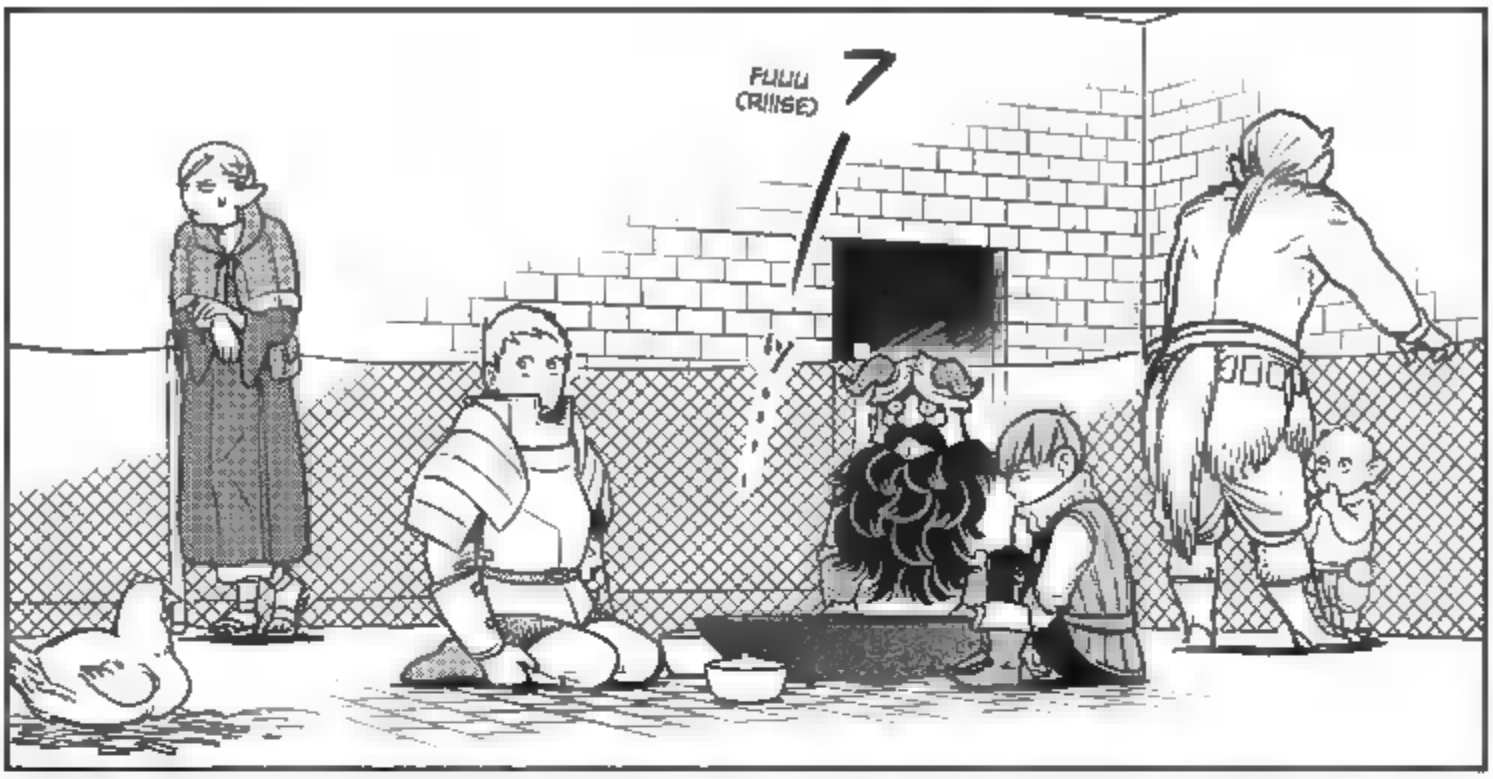
WE FINALLY SETTLED IN THE DUNGEON, AND NOW YOU'RE TRYING TO TAKE THAT.

BACHIN (SMACK)

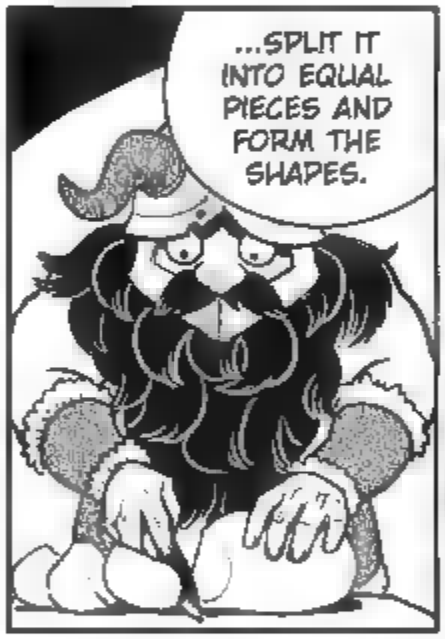
WE GOT CHASED FROM UP TOP AND FLED DOWN HERE.

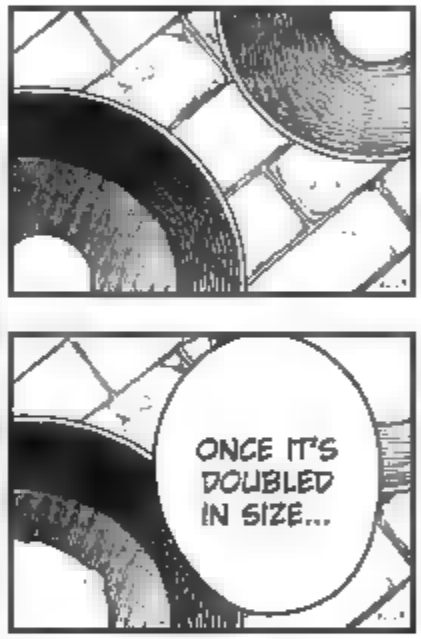
IF THAT'S YOUR ANGLE, THE ZOMBIES WANDERING AROUND HERE WERE—

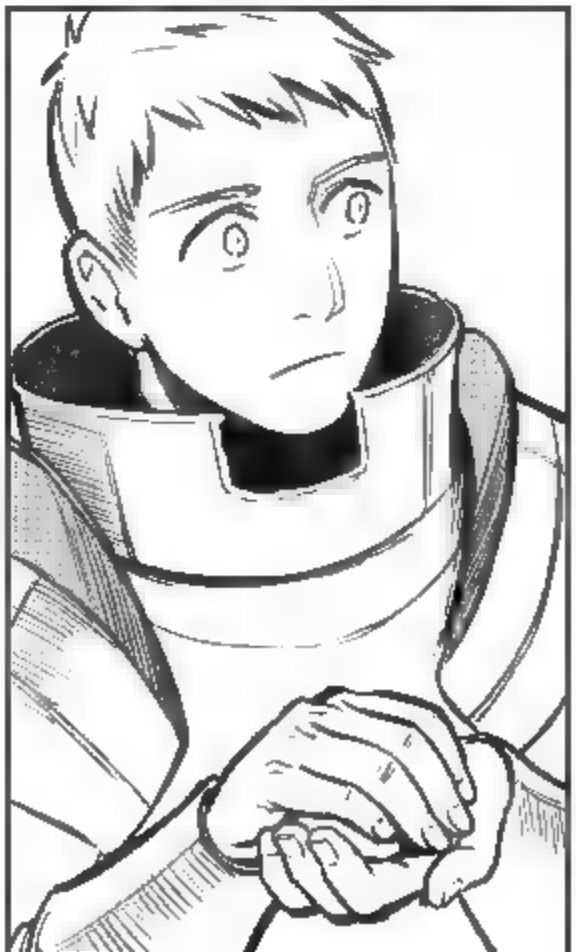
WE WERE THE FIRST ONES TO GO DOWN TO THE DEPTHS.


FUUU (RIIISE)

YOU AREN'T TALKING.
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THIS, HUMAN?


...SPLIT IT INTO EQUAL PIECES AND FORM THE SHAPES.


ONCE IT'S DOUBLED IN SIZE...



WHY ARE YOU HEADED FOR THE DUNGEON'S DEPTHS?
WHEN YOU GET THIS "COUNTRY," WHAT WILL YOU DO?

I HEAR IF YOU DEFEAT THE CRAZED MAGICIAN WHO MADE THIS DUN-GEON...
...YOU'LL GET THE CASTLE AND EVERY-THING ■ IT.

WELL, THAT'S JUST GREAT.

ALL ADVENTURERS ARE LIKE YOU.

...I HADN'T EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT IT.

I'VE HEARD THAT, YES, BUT...

I...

THAT'S WHY, WHENEVER WE SEE A TOP-SIDER, WE KILL THEM.

THE IDEA OF SOMEBODY LIKE YOU GETTING THIS CASTLE MAKES MY HAIR STAND ON END.

PICKING UP CASH FOR THE DAY.

TESTING THEIR SKILLS.

THEY'RE ALL GREEDY IDIOTS.

SECOND RISE.

I LIKE YOU.

...YOU'VE GOT SPUNK ANYWAY.

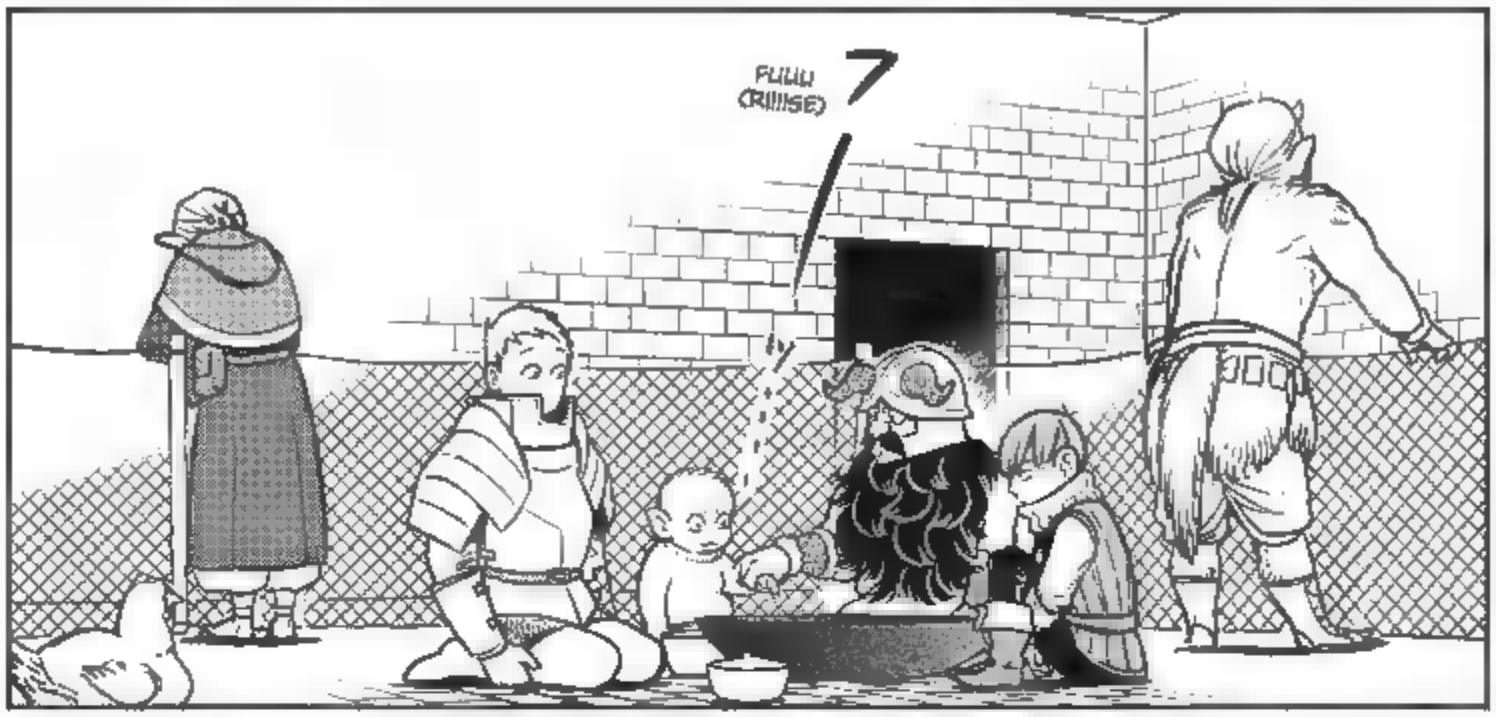
IN THAT CASE, YOU SHOULD TRY FOR THE THRONE!

THAT'S NOT LOGICAL!

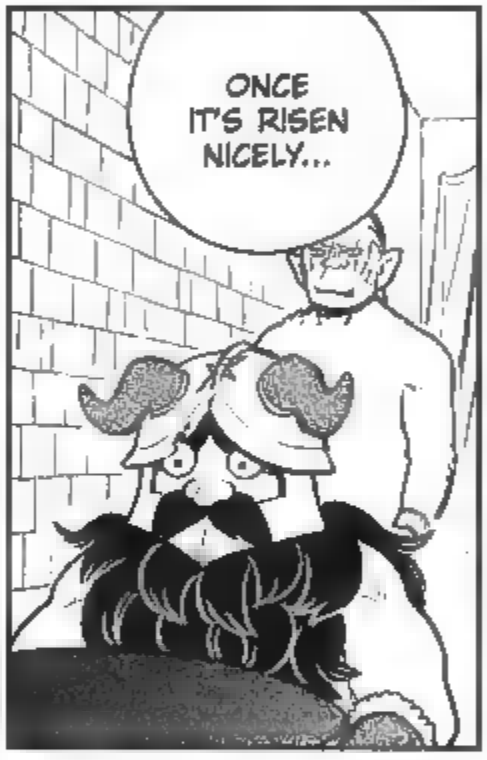
SEE? YOU ALWAYS GO STRAIGHT TO VIOLENCE!

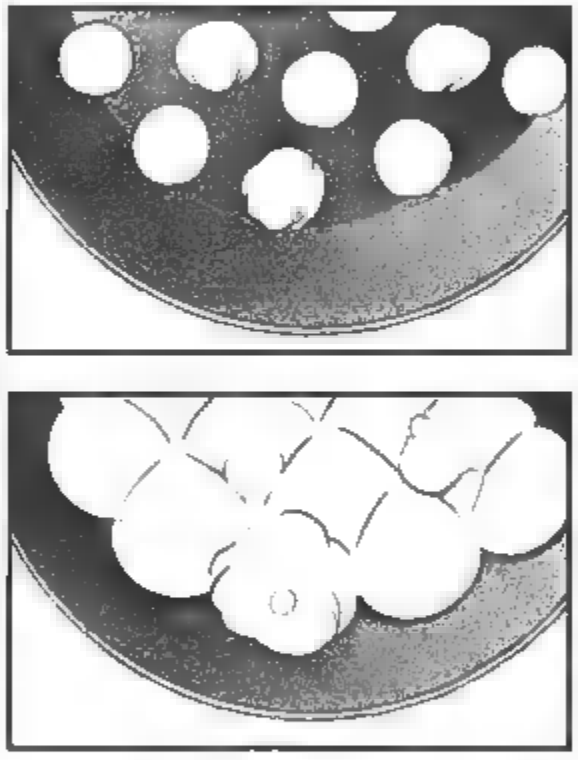
I THINK I'LL THROW YOU ONTO A FIRE [redacted] YOU'RE ALIVE!

OR IS PLUNDERING ALL ORCS CAN DO?


FUUU
(RIIIISE)

GAKON
(CLANK)
ガコン

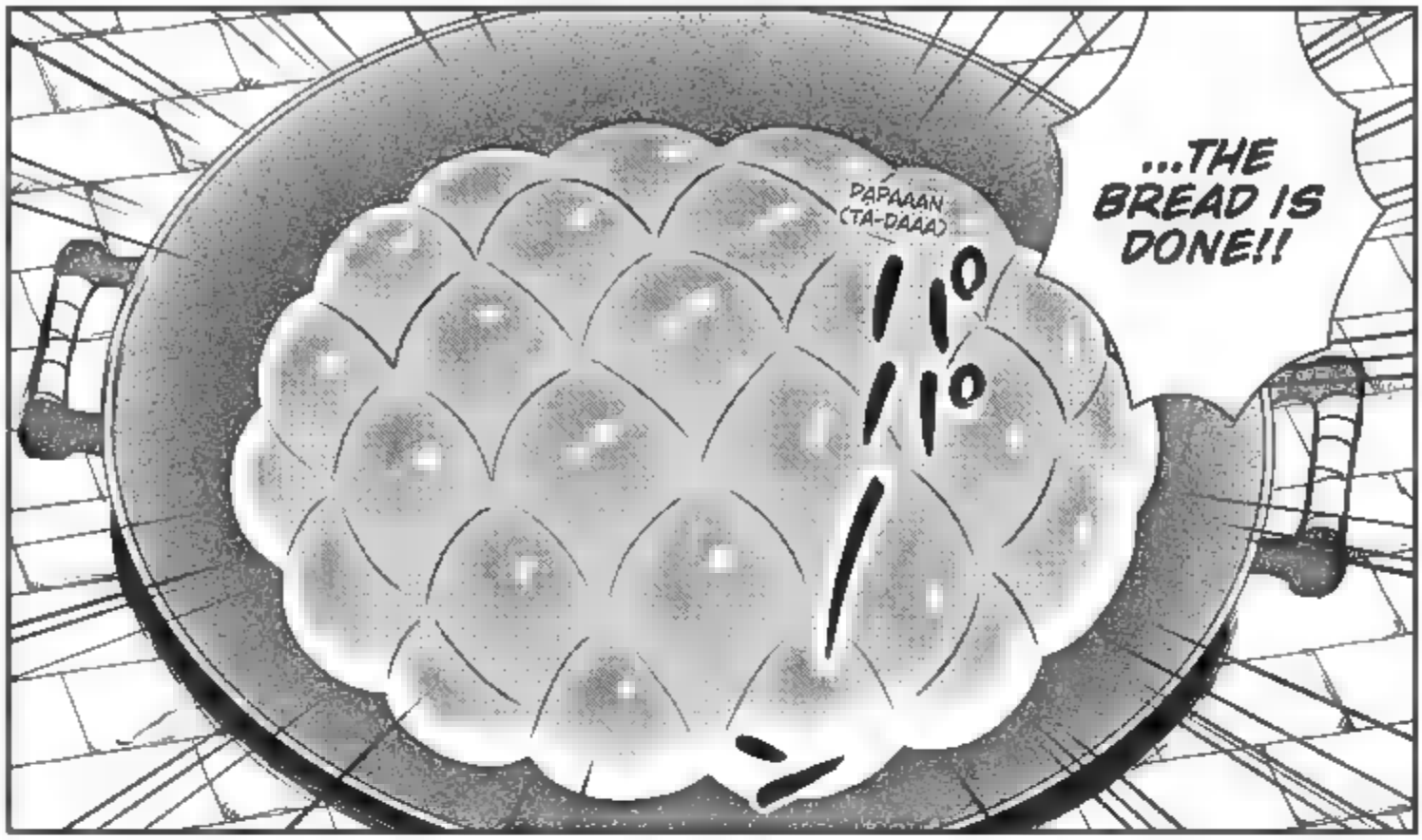

ONCE IT'S RISEN NICELY...



PAKA
(POP)
OPEN THE LID, AND...

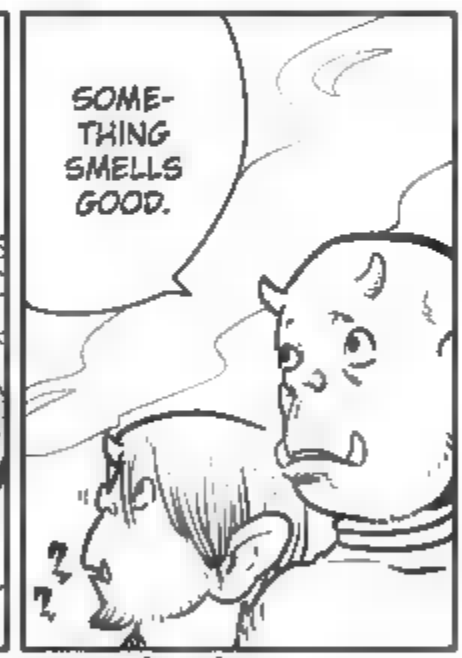
LET IT STEAM A BIT.

...BAKE IT OVER A LOW FIRE, ONE SIDE AT A TIME.


PAPAAAN (TA-DAAA)
...THE BREAD IS DONE!!

THAT BREAD'S OURS.
I'M NOT GIVING IT TO YOU.

LET'S HAVE A TASTE—
HOLD IT!


SOME-THING SMELLS GOOD.
SFX: KLIN (SNIFF) KLIN

YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO MAKE BREAD, SO I LET YOU, BUT...
...THOSE ARE OURS TO DO WITH AS WE LIKE.

WH-WHAT!?

GH!

WE ALL MADE IT TOGETHER, BUT THEY DON'T GET ANY?

DADDY.

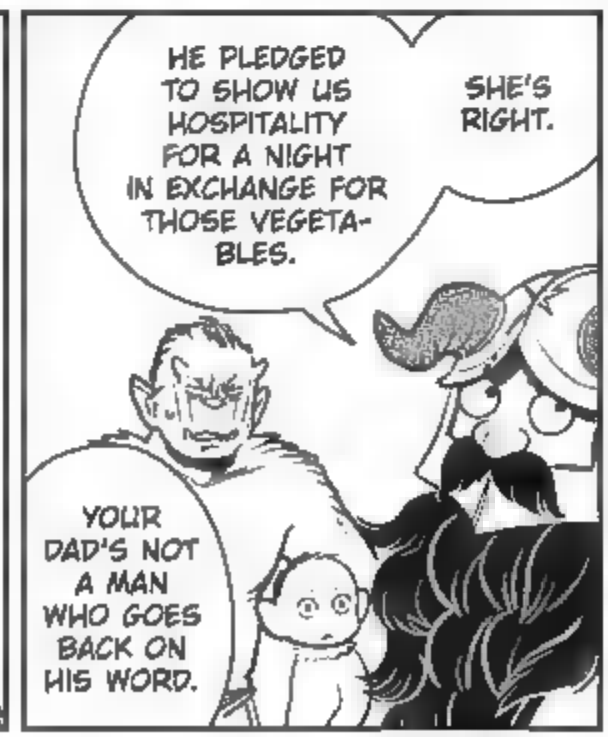
WHAT YOUR FATHER MEANS IS, WE HAVE TO WAIT TILL THE OTHER DISHES ARE READY.
HEY, DON'T JUST—

FOR A MEAL, YOU NEED A GOOD BALANCE OF STARCH AND GRAIN, VEGETABLES, AND FISH AND MEAT.

...THAT'S BECAUSE BREAD BY ITSELF ISN'T A MEAL.

HEY.
GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT.

HAAH...


HE PLEDGED TO SHOW US HOSPITALITY FOR A NIGHT IN EXCHANGE FOR THOSE VEGETA-BLES.
SHE'S RIGHT.
YOUR DAD'S NOT A MAN WHO GOES BACK ON HIS WORD.

FRESHLY STOLEN VEGETABLES AND CHICKEN STEWED WITH CABBAGE ACCOMPANIED BY PLUNDERED BREAD

THERE! IT'S DONE!!

SPICY CHICKEN AND WHOLE STEWED CABBAGE

Ingredients (Serves 3)

Cabbage (stolen)—1 head
Carrots (stolen)—2
Onions (stolen)—2 med.
Cayenne pepper
Salt and pepper
Water
Chicken—400 g

STUFF THESE WITH THIS AND EAT.

CREPES

Ingredients (Serves 1)

Wheat flour (stolen)—60 g
Salt
Water
Olive oil

BREAD

Ingredients (Serves 3)

Bread flour (stolen)—250 g
Water—160 ml
Bread starter (stolen)
Sugar
Salt
Olive oil

SHADDUP.
IT'S MADE FROM THE SAME THINGS, BUT IT'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.
I SAID ALL ORCS COULD DO WAS PLUNDER...
...BUT YOU DO COOK PRETTY WELL.

PAKU CHUNCHO

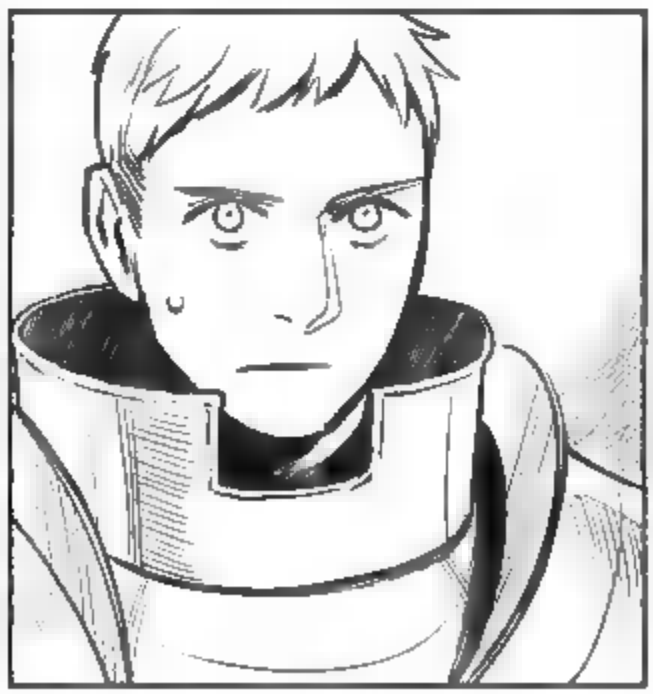
HOT!
DO (BLAZE)
Y-YUM!

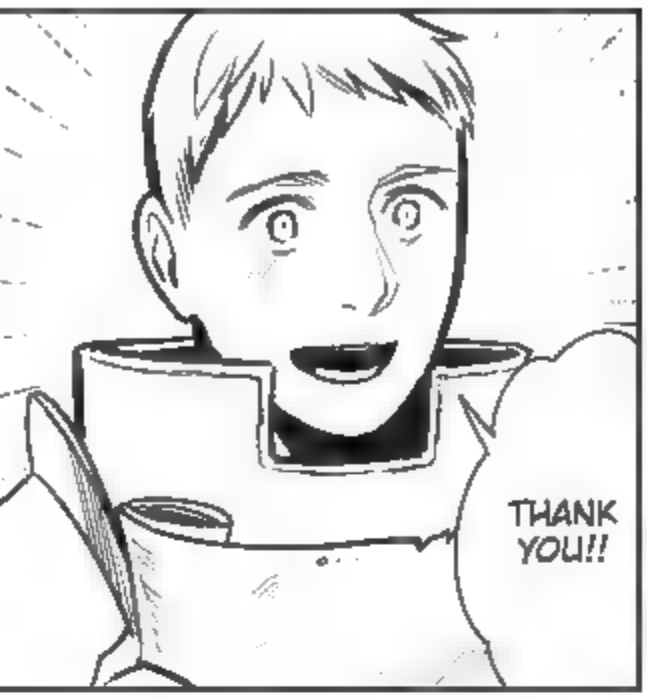
TH-THANK YOU FOR THE FOOD.
EAT!

IF YOU TELL US WHERE IT IS, WE'LL DEFEAT IT!
I PROMISE WE WON'T INTERFERE WITH YOUR VILLAGE.

...WE'RE CHASING IT.
MY LITTLE SISTER GOT EATEN BY THE RED DRAGON.

UM...
YOU ASKED WHY WE WERE MAKING FOR THE DEPTHS.




THANK YOU!!

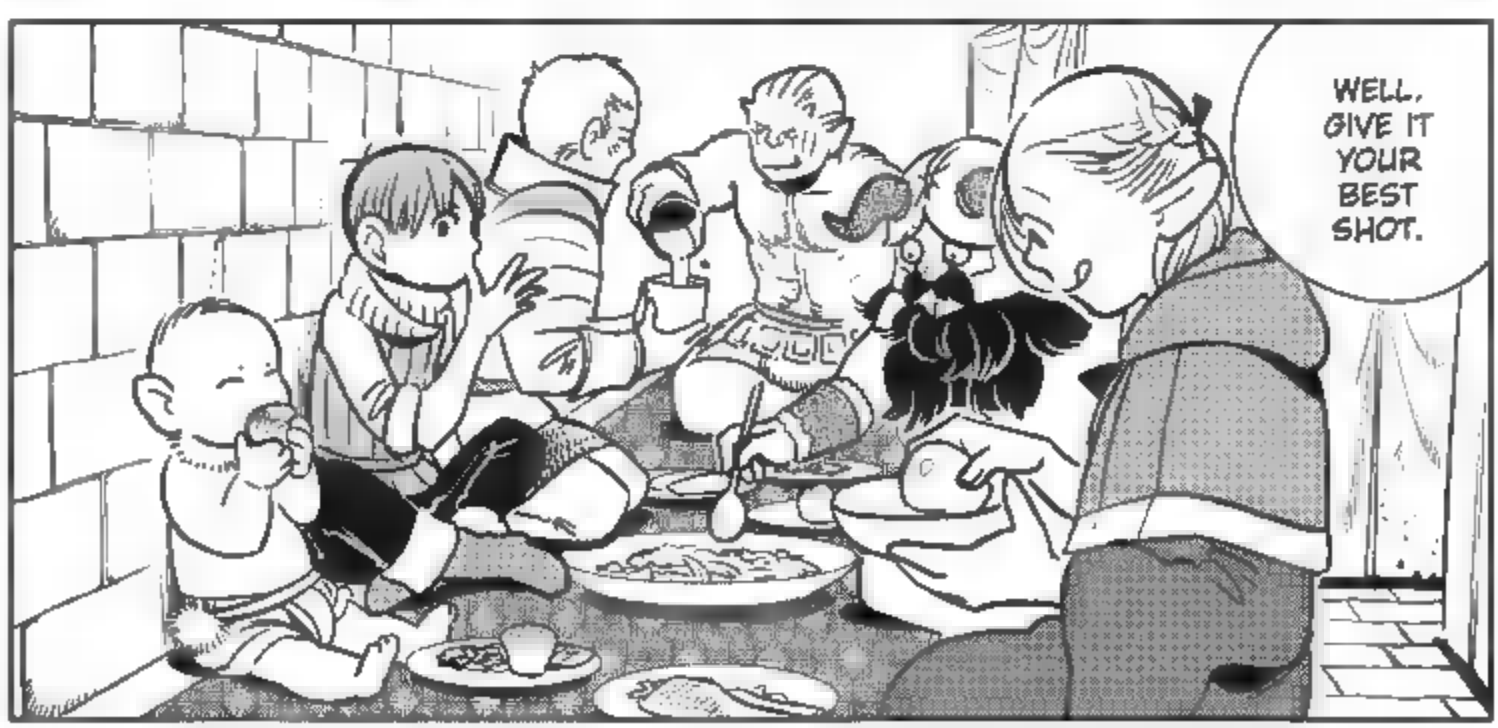
TWO FLOORS BELOW HERE.
BASA (RUSTLE)
LAST TIME WE SAW IT, IT WAS NEAR THE WESTERN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT.

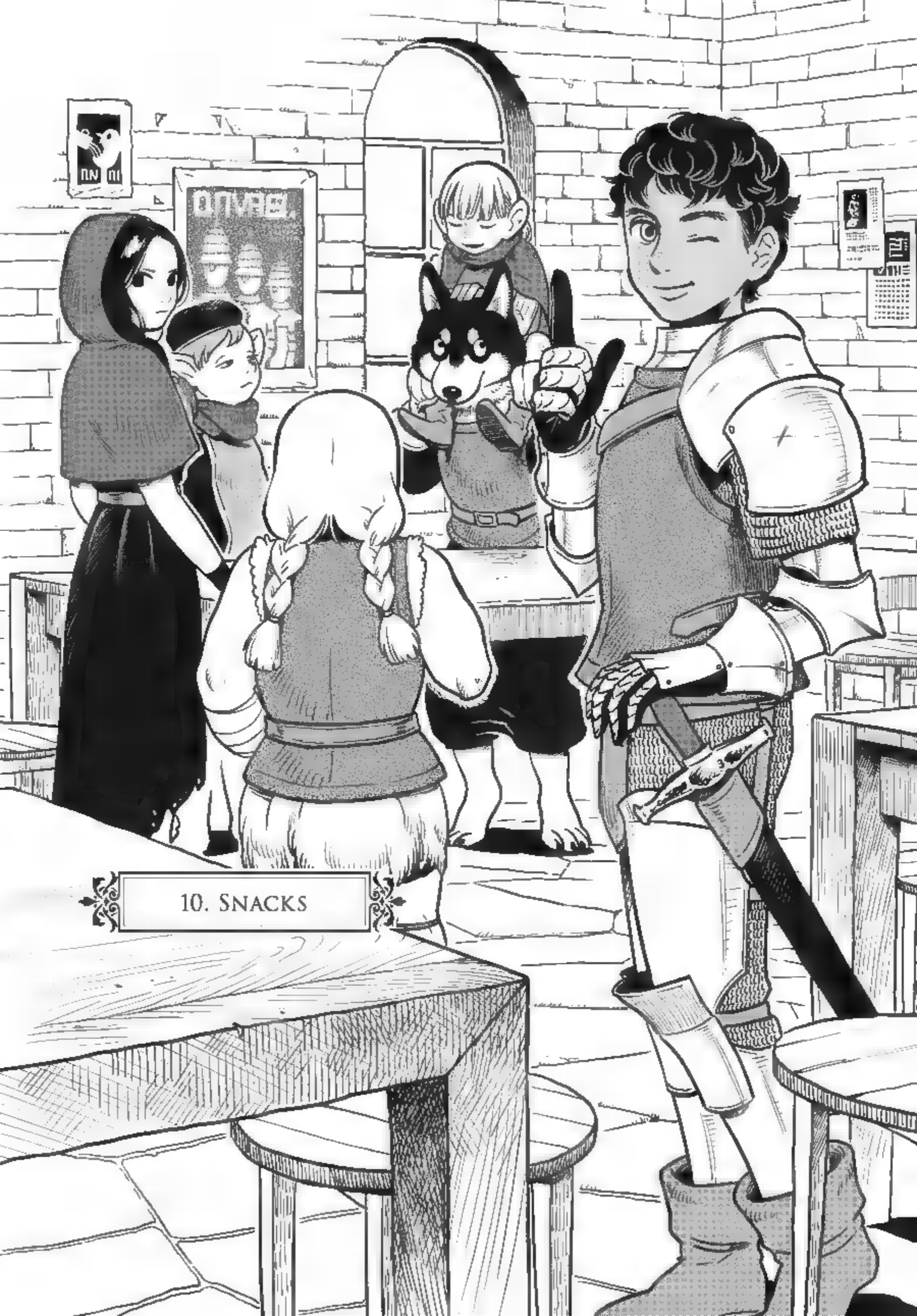
BRING A MAP.

UH...

HA!
I CAN'T SEE A GUY WHO SPENDS HIS TIME AS AN ORC CAPTIVE MAKING BREAD BECOMING KING.

...FROM NOW ON, I'LL GIVE CAREFUL THOUGHT...
...TO WINNING THE DUNGEON WHILE I EXPLORE IT.


WELL, GIVE IT YOUR BEST SHOT.



10. Snacks

HAAH...

LET'S REALLY SAVOR IT.
ONCE WE'RE BACK IN THE DUNGEON, I GUESS WE WON'T BE SEEING FOOD THIS GOOD FOR A WHILE.

HOW'S IT GOING? SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE DOING REAL GOOD THESE DAYS!

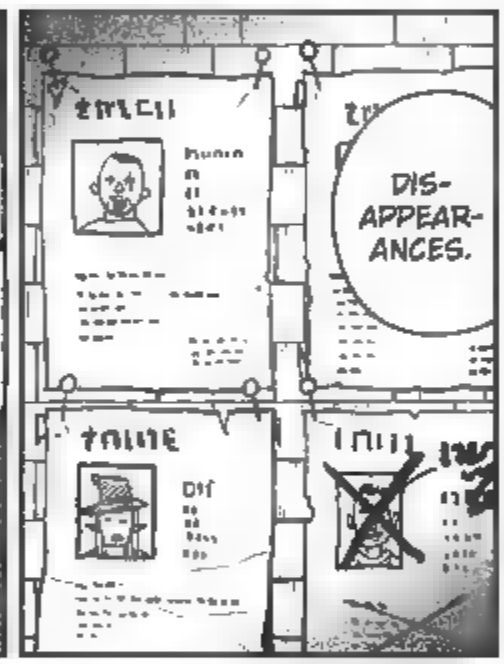
WHAT, YOU'RE HEADED DOWN ALREADY?

MEANWHILE, NONE OF THE MAJOR PLAYERS ARE GETTING ANYWHERE.
IS THAT RIGHT?

WASN'T SUCH A LONG TIME AGO YOU WERE A COUPLE OF GREEN-HORNS...
...BUT YOU'VE BECOME QUITE THE RESPECT-ABLE PARTY.
NO, NO. WE'RE STILL NOT—

MONEY SQUAB-BLES.

INFIGHT-ING.


DIS-APPEAR-ANCES.

NO, NO...
IT MIGHT BE SOME-BODY LIKE YOU WHO FINALLY BAGS THAT CRAZY MAGICIAN.

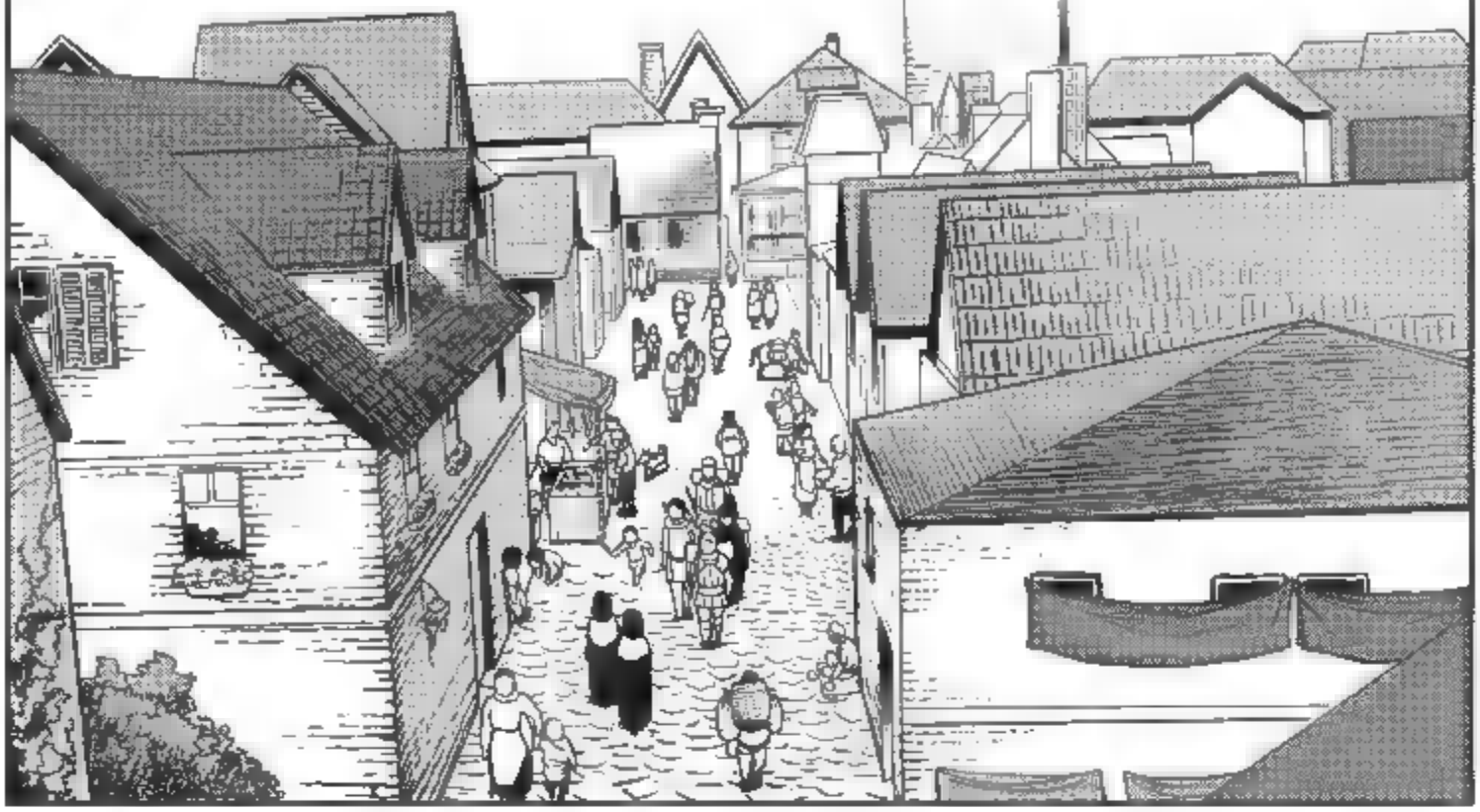
"OF COURSE WE'LL DEFEAT THE MAGICIAN."

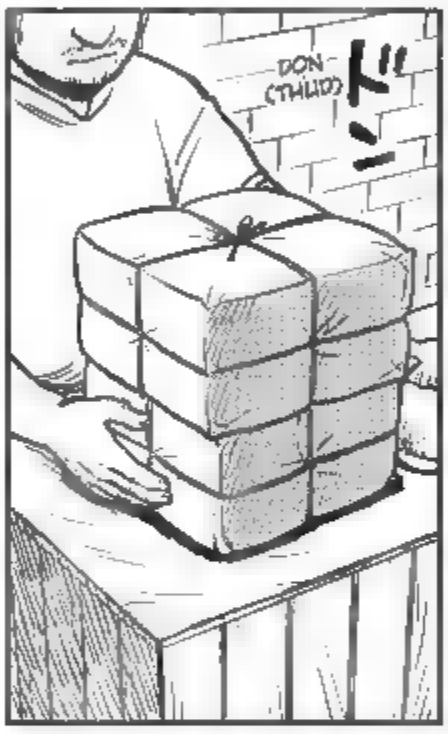
HUH?

DON'T JUST SMILE AND GLOSS THINGS OVER.
YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD HIM STRAIGHT-OUT.

THAT'S WHY THIS TIME WE'RE GOING A BIT DEEPER.
LET'S PREPARE CARE-FULLY.

"WE WON'T BE HAND-TO-MOUTH ADVENTURERS LIKE YOU PEOPLE."
WHY DON'T WE JUST SHOW THEM INSTEAD?



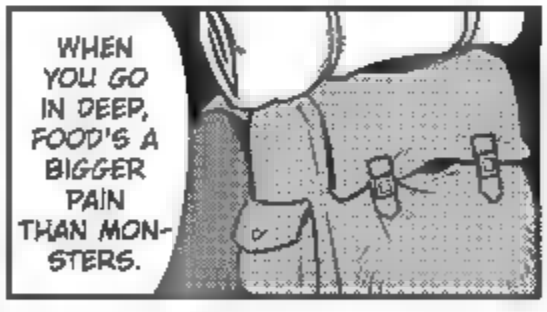

DON (THUD)

A WEEK'S RATIONS FOR SIX AND TWO DAYS' WORTH OF WATER.
SURE THING.

GACHA (CHAK)
COME ON IN.

I NEVER WANT TO LIVE LIKE THAT.

I'D THINK HUNTING MONSTERS WOULD BE EASIER THAN ATTACKING PEOPLE.
WELL... WHEN THEY MEET OTHER ADVENTURERS, THEY EAT THEM!


WHEN YOU GO IN DEEP, FOOD'S A BIGGER PAIN THAN MONSTERS.

JUST A WEEK'S WORTH, AND IT'S THIS HEAVY.
I WONDER WHAT PEOPLE DO WHEN THEY STAY DOWN THERE A MONTH.

YAAH!

WE'RE FINE.

WE'VE NEVER BEEN TO THIS FLOOR BEFORE, BUT IT'S EASY.

WHEW.

IS EVERY-BODY OKAY?

(THUD)

LET'S BE CAREFUL.

IT'S TRUE THAT SKILLED PARTIES ARE HAVING TROUBLE.

WE DON'T KNOW WHAT COULD HAPPEN HERE.

I THINK WE COULD PROBABLY GO DEEPER.

...I HEAR THE DUNGEON'S BEEN STRANGE LATELY.

HE WAS TALKING ABOUT PROBLEMS WITHIN THE GROUPS.
WELL, SURE, THAT TOO, BUT...

SOMETHING ODD IS DEFINITELY GOING ON.

THEY SAY THE MONSTERS ARE MORE ACTIVE THAN USUAL...
...AND THAT THE DUNGEON'S LAYOUT IS SHIFTING...

HEY!

YES, SIR.
LET'S ALL KEEP OUR GUARD UP.
GOSO (RUMMAGE)
GOSO

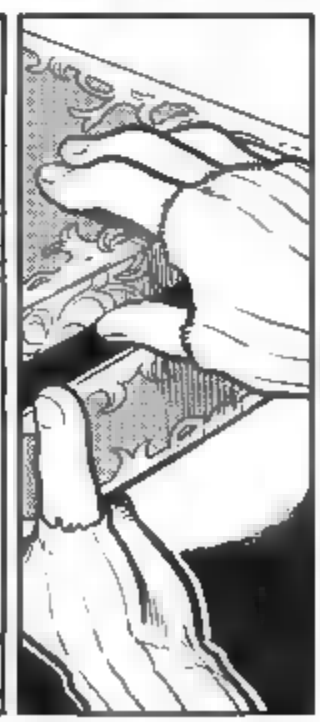
THERE YOU GO, WASTING TIME AGAIN.
OPEN IT!

HE HAD SOME-THING.

...BOOKS THAT AREN'T LEGIBLE ANY-MORE...
ANCIENT, RUSTY COINS...
...COS-METICS...
...AND FORBIDDEN MEDICINAL HERBS.

THERE COULD BE A PILE OF COINS IN THERE. WE DON'T KNOW.
NOTHING GOOD EVER COMES OUT OF THOSE.

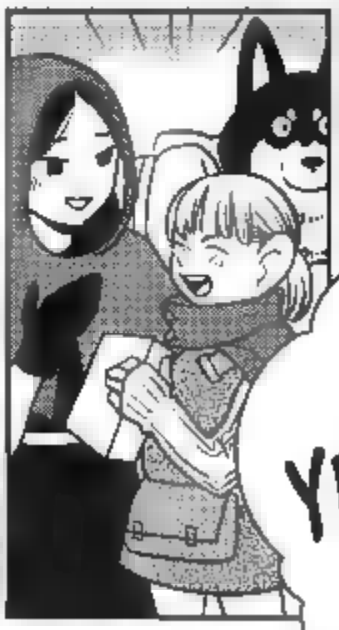
WHA ...!?
WHAT IS IT!?



BUT THE ZOMBIE HELD ON TO THIS FOR DEAR LIFE.
EVEN AFTER HE WAS DEAD.
WE MIGHT AS WELL TAKE A LOOK.

WHOA!

LOOK AT ALL THAT TREASURE!



SOMEBODY GOT WIPED OUT HERE.
OOH...
OH DEAR.

I BET THEY FOUGHT OVER MONEY.

MAYBE THEY STARVED ?

I DON'T SEE MANY WOUNDS.
WAS IT A SPIRIT ATTACK?

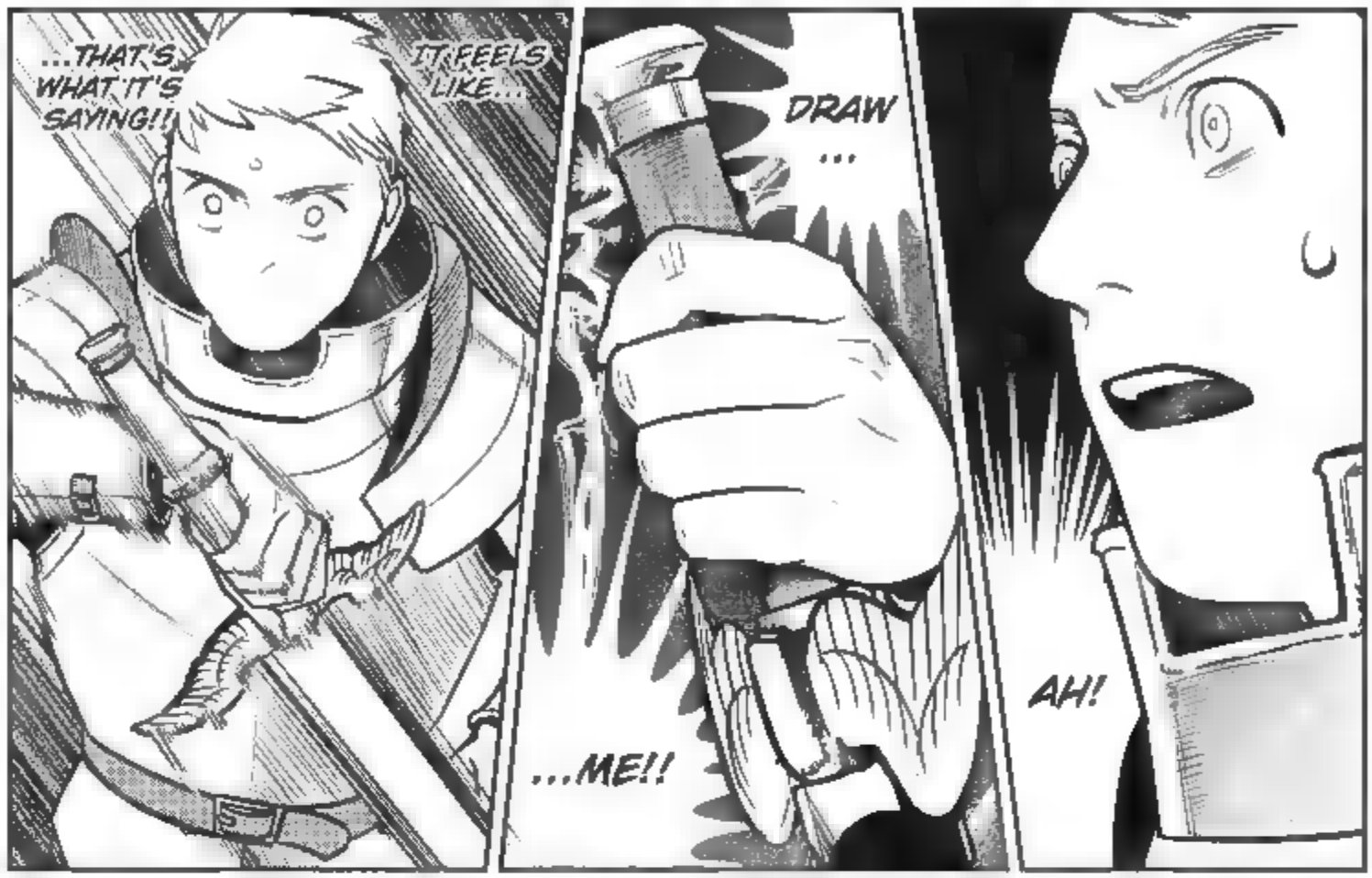
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY WERE HEADED BACK TO TOWN TOO.
POOR THINGS.

THE CORPSE RETRIEVERS SHOULD FIND THEM SOON...
...BUT I'LL PRAY FOR THEM SO THEY DON'T TURN INTO ZOMBIES.

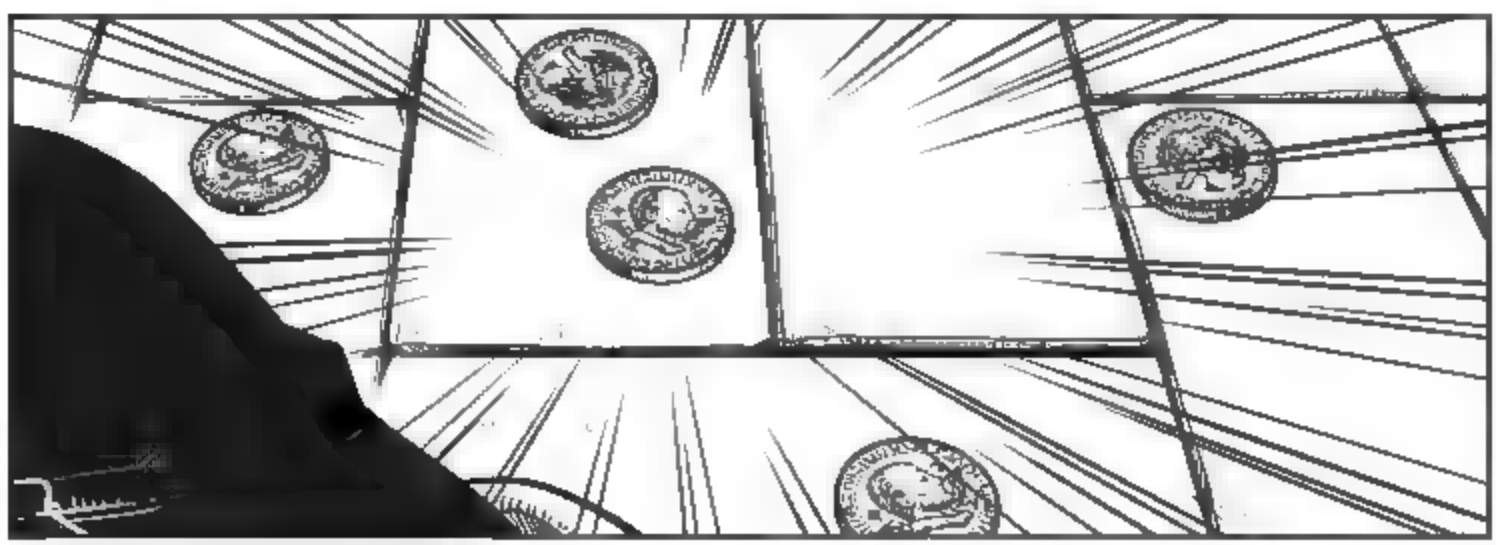
THE CORPSE RETRIEVERS WILL PROBABLY POCKET THEM ALL ANYWAY, Y'KNOW.

WHAT'LL WE DO WITH THESE?
LET'S AT LEAST GATHER THEM IN ONE PLACE.

WHOA!!
GAKUN (CLURCH)
HUH!?
NOTH-ING.
WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?
THE SWORD JUST JUMPED ...
N-NO, UH...
YEEG!
NURU (SLIDE)
WHAT'S GOING ON?
HEY! DON'T WRAP AROUND MY FINGERS!
IT'S BEEN QUIET ALL THIS TIME...


...THAT'S WHAT IT'S SAYING!!
IT FEELS LIKE...
DRAW ...
...ME!!
AH!

HUH!?



パカ
PAKA
(POP)

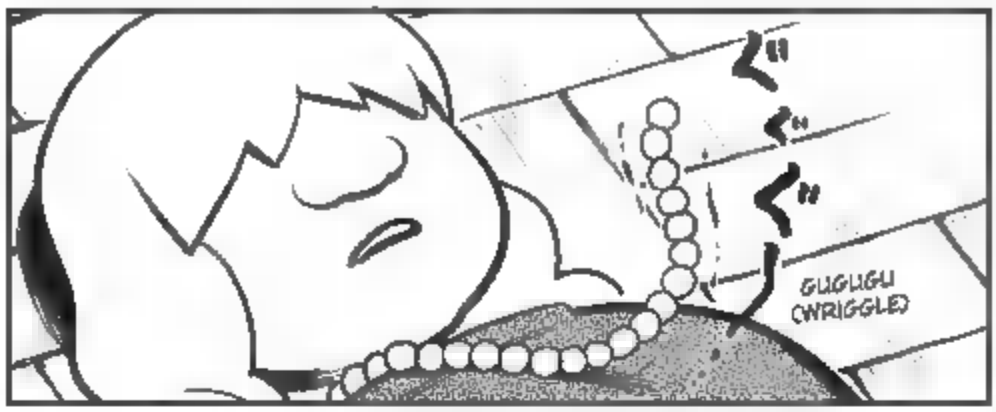
ス
SU
(SPLIT)

AGHI?

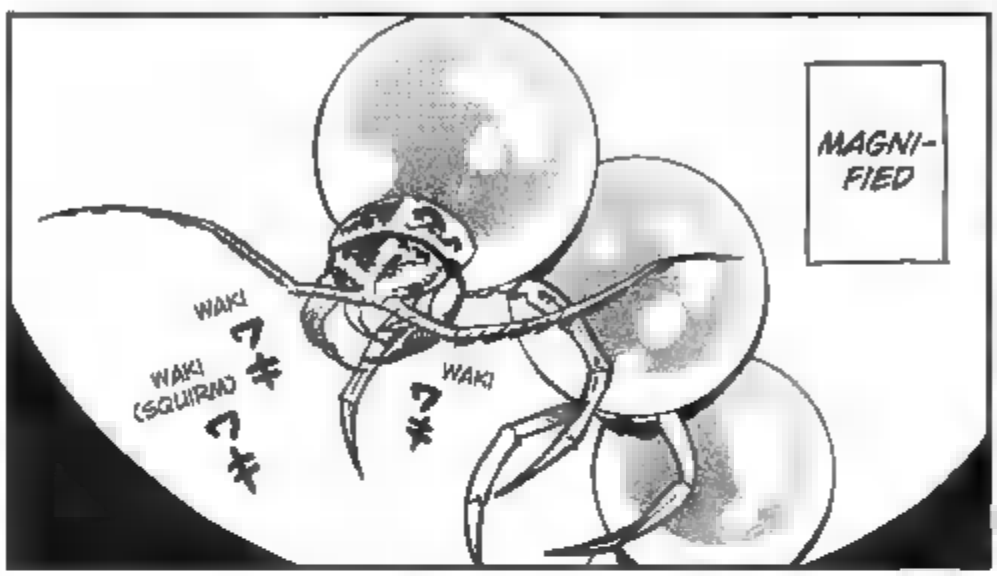
BUAAAAN
(VOOM)

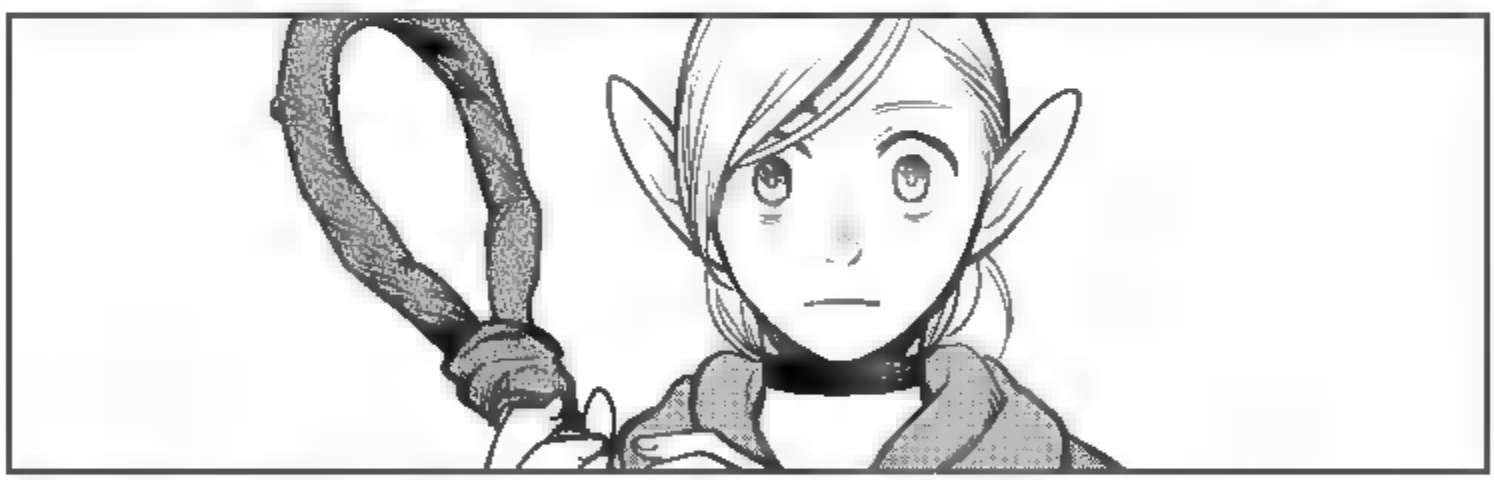
MARCILLE! GET AWAY FROM THE CORPSES!

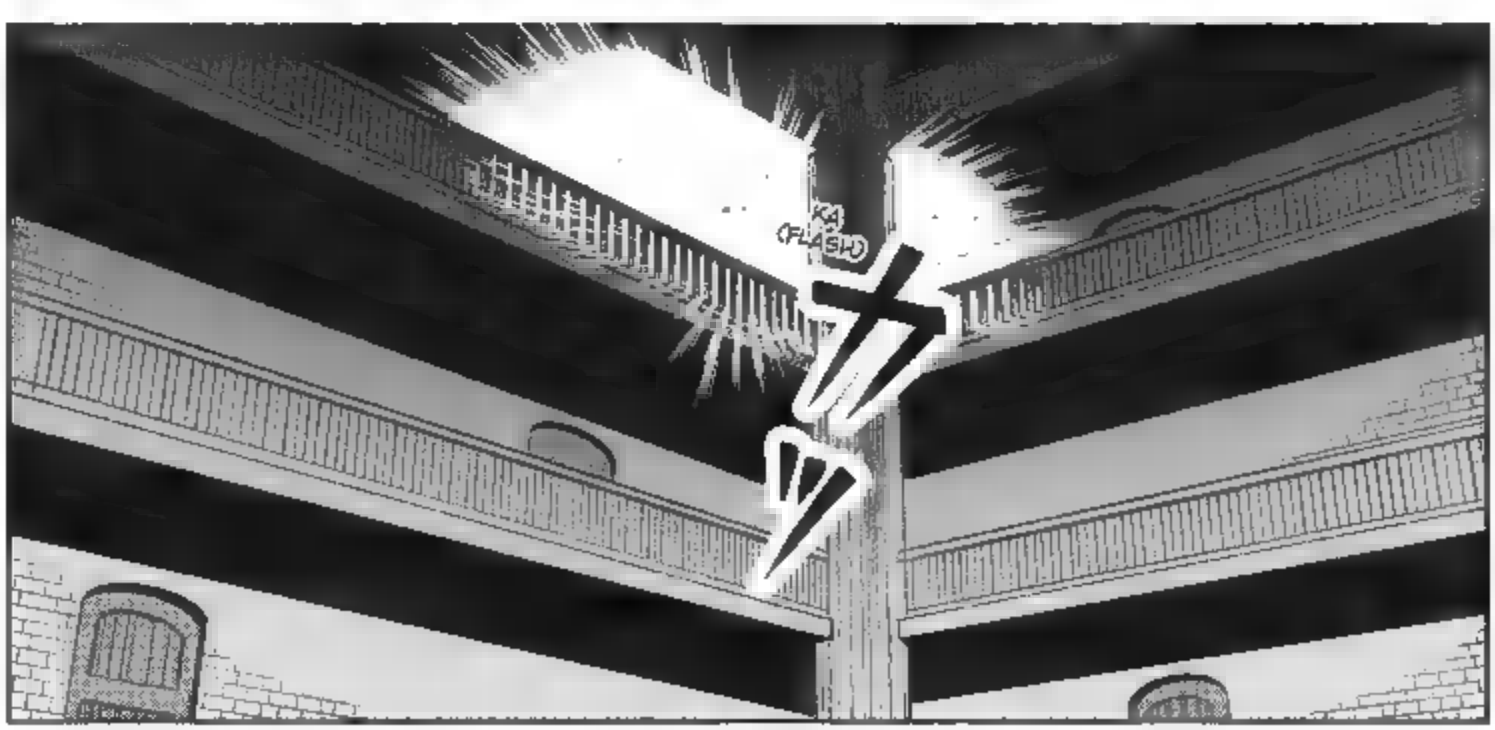
YEEK!


GUGUGU
(WRIGGLE)

HUH?


MAGNI-
FIED
WAKI
WAKI
(SQUIRM)
WAKI

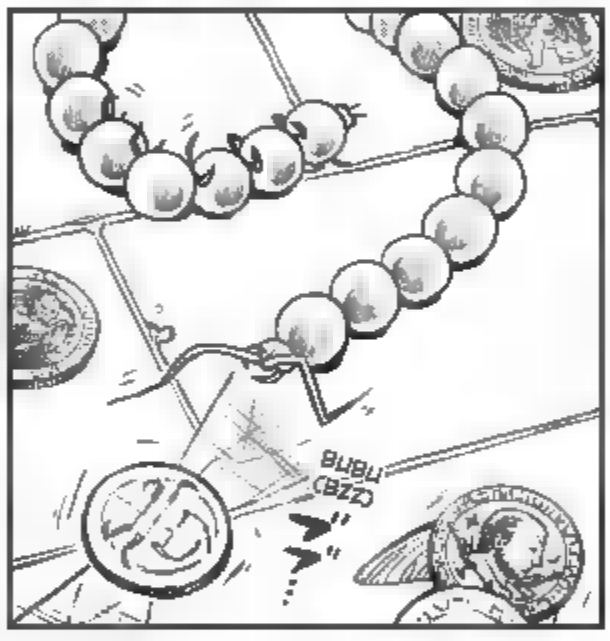



KA
(FLASH)

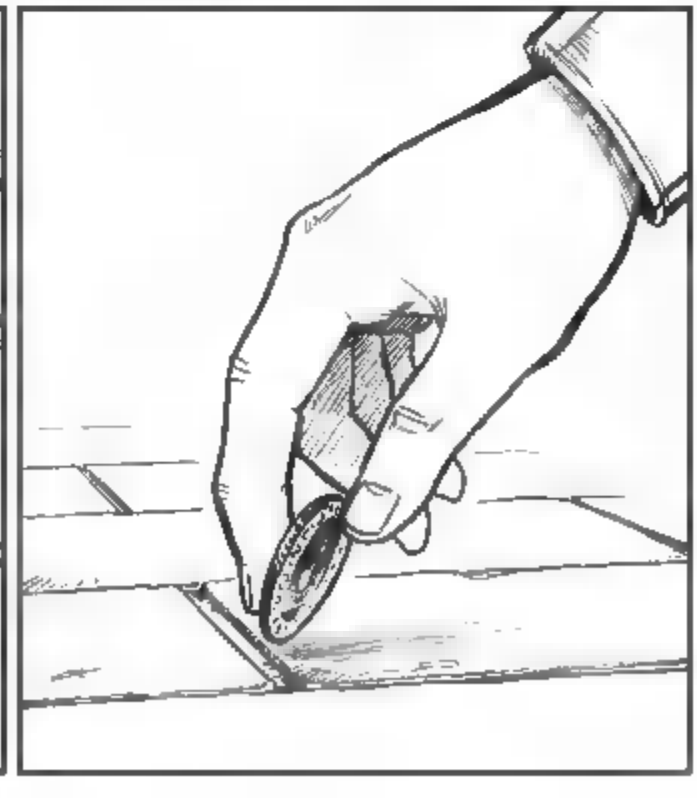
CHIKA (BLINK)
CHIKA
HAAAH
HAAAAH

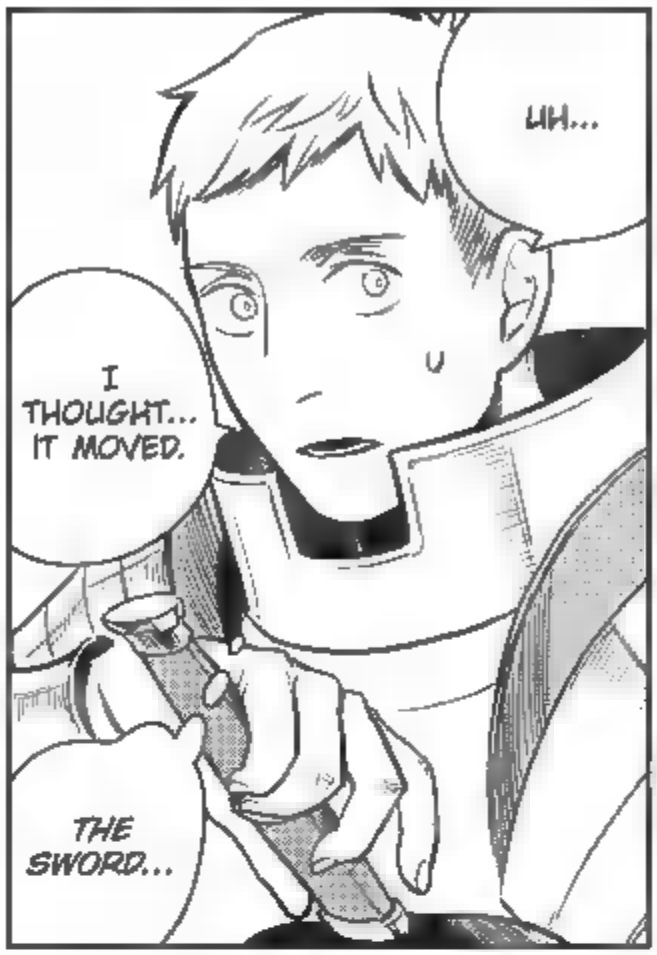
ARE THEY ALL TREASURE INSECTS !?
ACK! WHAT IS THIS!?
GROSS!

CHIKA
CHIKA
WELL DONE, MARGILLE.
A STUN SPELL, HM?
WE'RE LUCKY THAT WASN'T AN EXPLOSION.


BUBU (BZZ)

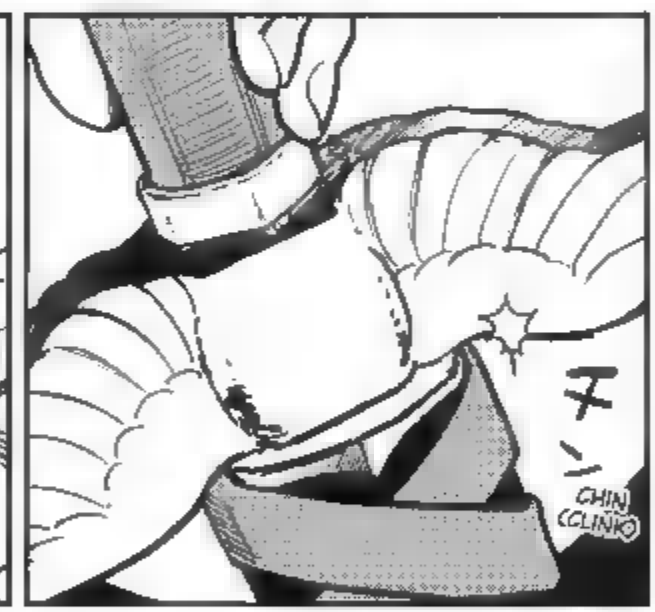
I SEE. THEN THE TREASURE INSECTS WIPED OUT THAT PARTY.
I HAVEN'T SEEN THEM A WHILE, SO I DIDN'T CATCH ON.

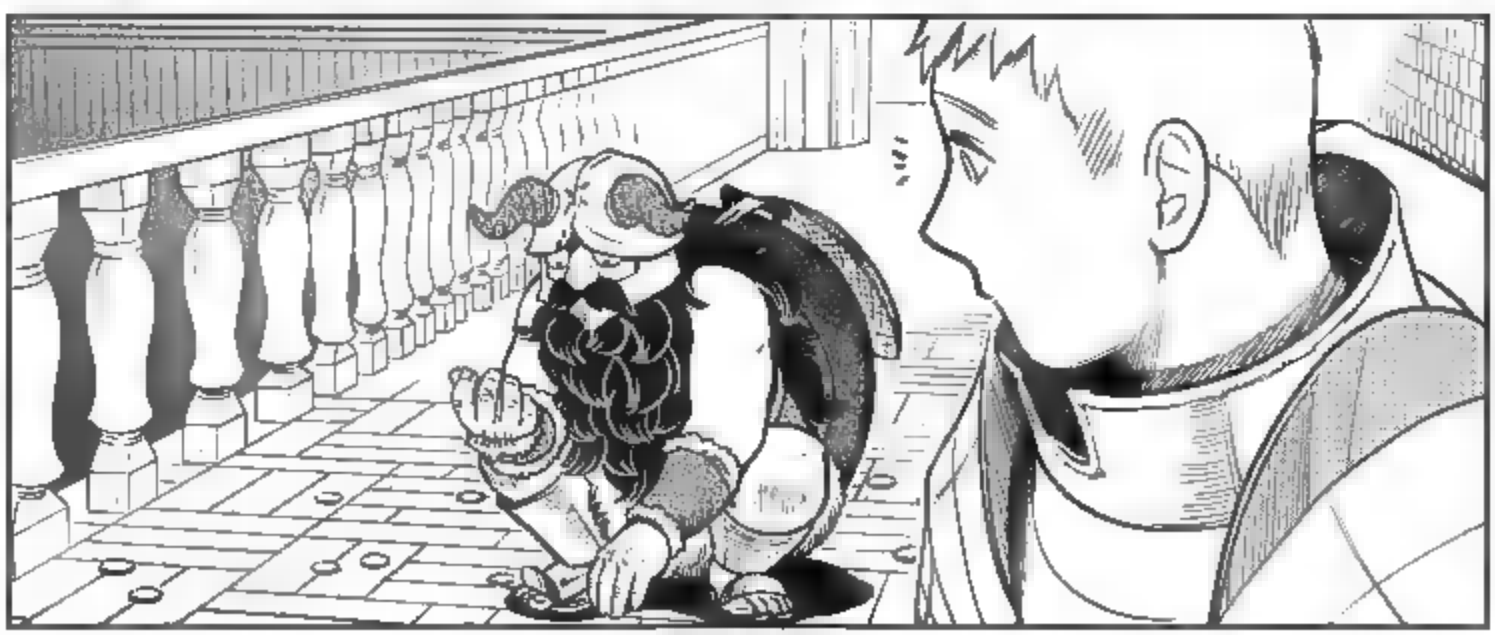



UH...
I THOUGHT... IT MOVED.
THE SWORD...

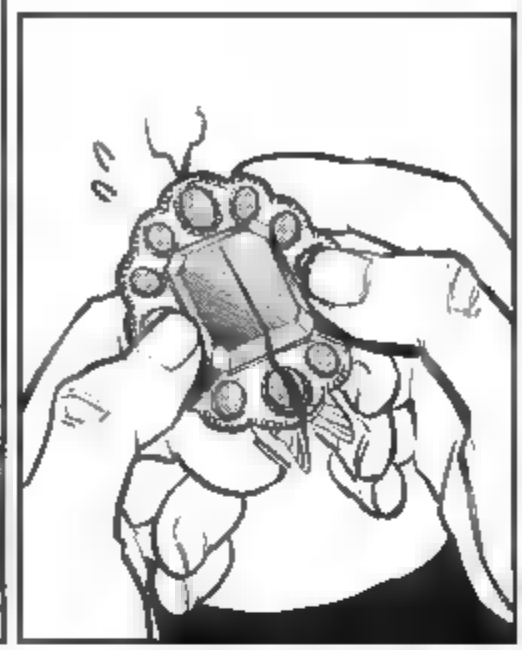
THAT'S RIGHT!
NUH-UH, YOU DID CATCH ON.
HOW DID YOU KNOW?

HE'S GETTING LESS AND LESS HUMAN.
IT'S QUIET NOW.
SO IT REALLY WAS RESPOND-ING TO THE TREASURE INSECTS?

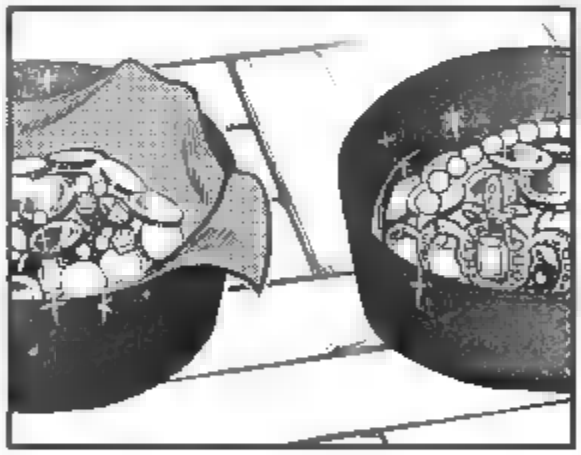

チン
CHIN (CLINK)



POI (TOSS)



THESE AREN'T.
THESE ARE EDIBLE.



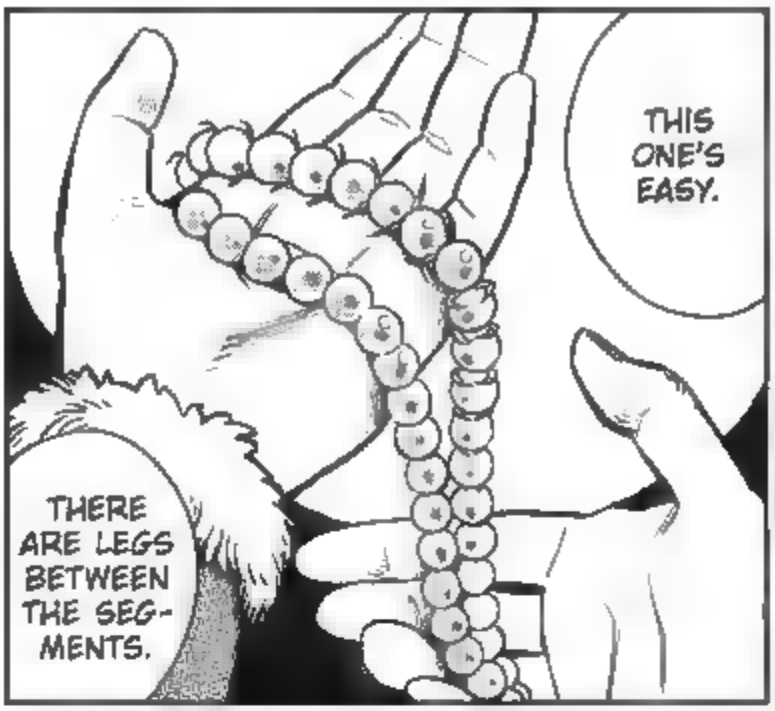
OH WOW. HE'S SORTING THEM.
NOOOOO

SA (SHF)
SA
SA
SA

ON TOP OF THAT, THEY'RE PRETTY.
DON'T SHOW ME THE BACK SIDE.

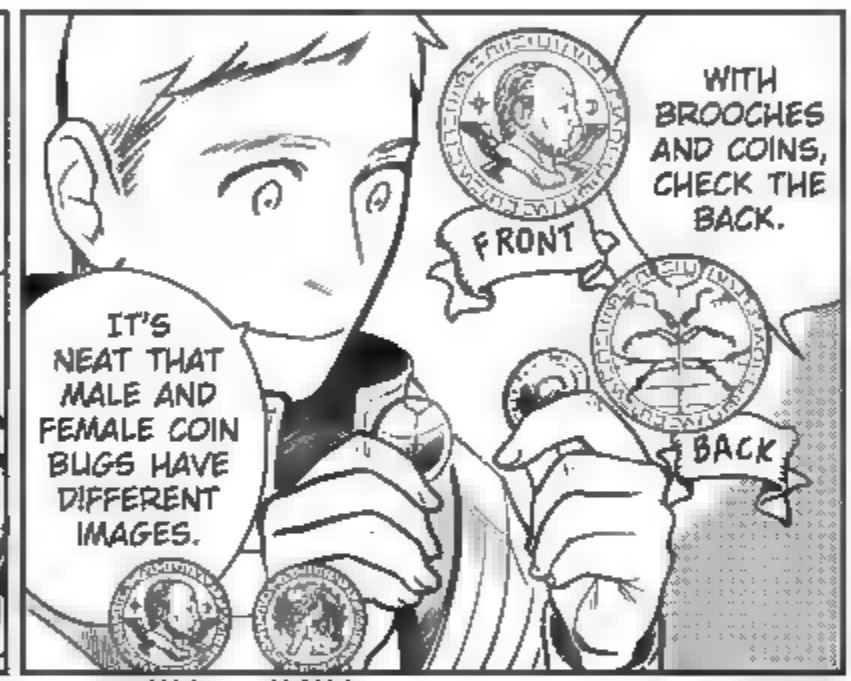
BUGS ARE A TERRIFIC FOOD. REAL NUTRI-TIOUS.
THEY'VE GOT GOOD FLAVOR, AND LOTS OF IT.

ARE THESE GOOD?
OF COURSE.

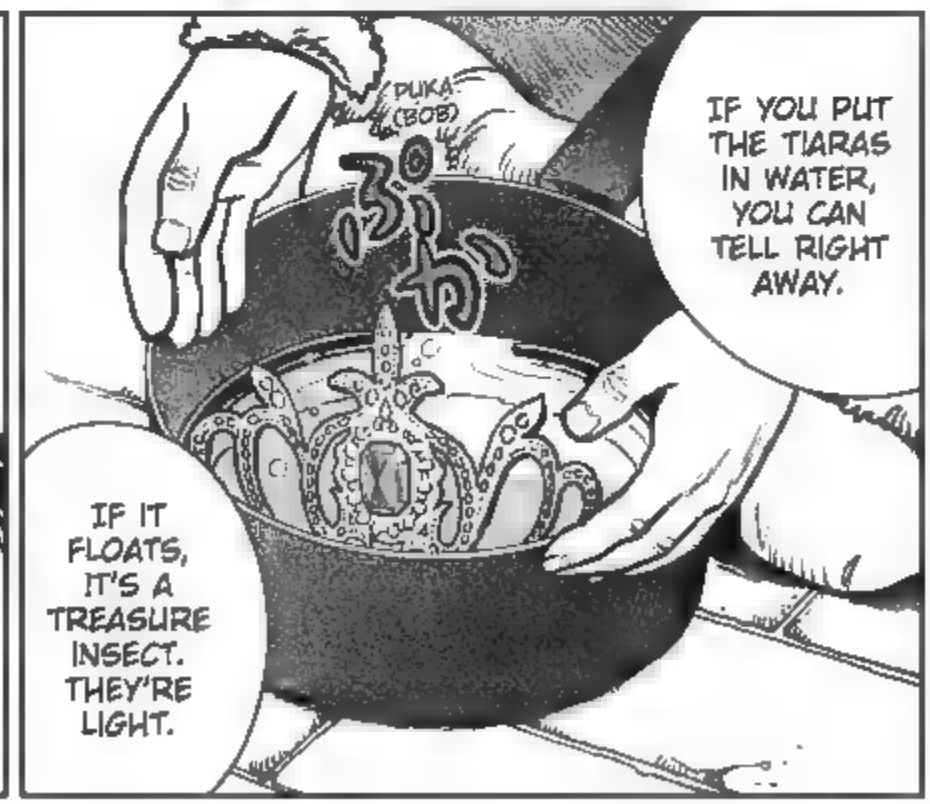

THIS ONE'S EASY.
THERE ARE LEGS BETWEEN THE SEG-MENTS.

HOW CAN YOU TELL WHICH ONES ARE EDIBLE?
DEPENDS.

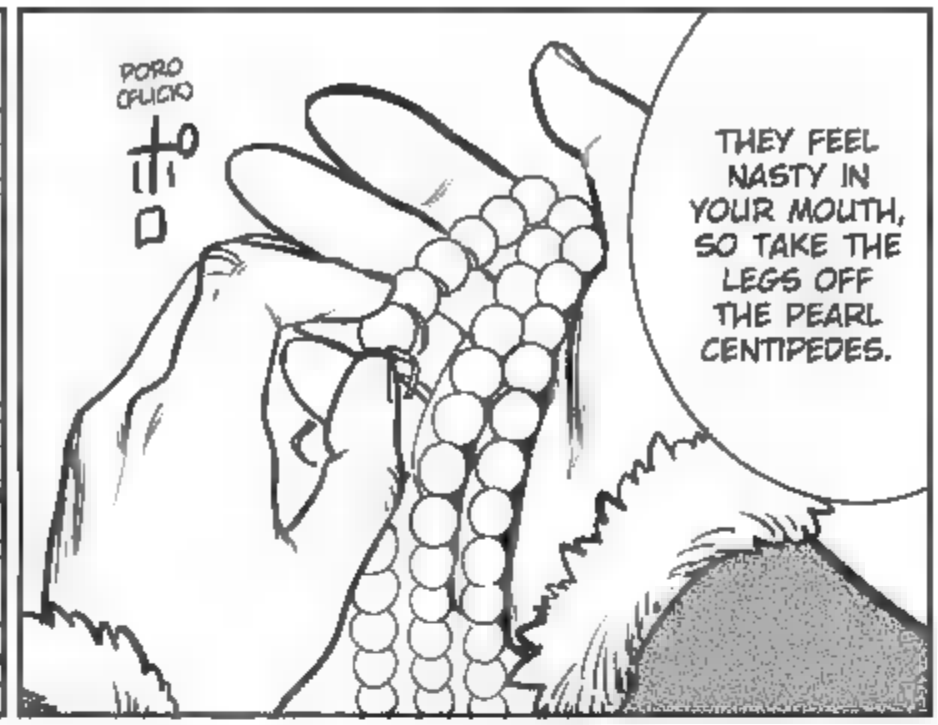
WITH RINGS, THE BAND IS SPRINGY.
(GUNI (SQUEEZE))
THORAX
HEAD
ABDOMEN

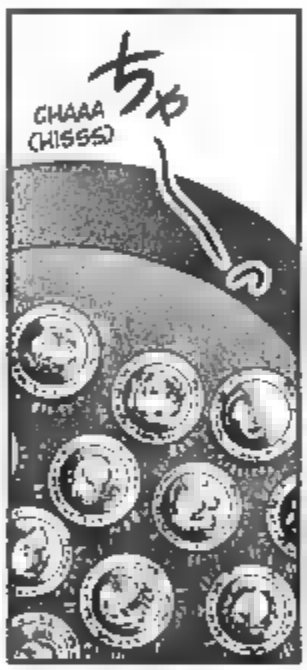

WITH BROOCHES AND COINS, CHECK THE BACK.
FRONT
BACK
IT'S NEAT THAT MALE AND FEMALE COIN BUGS HAVE DIFFERENT IMAGES.
MALE
FEMALE

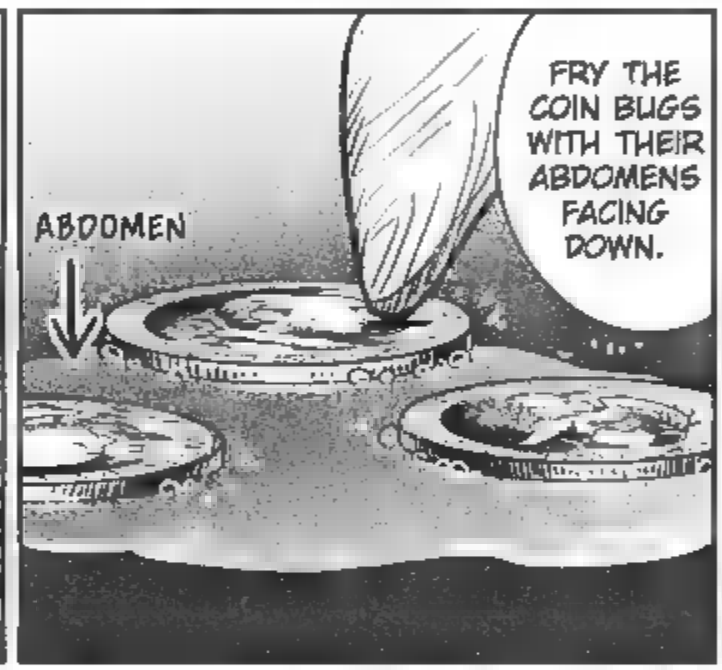
WELL, LET'S COOK 'EM WHILE THEY'RE STUNNED.


PUKA (BOB)
IF YOU PUT THE TIARAS IN WATER, YOU CAN TELL RIGHT AWAY.
IF IT FLOATS, IT'S A TREASURE INSECT. THEY'RE LIGHT.

THEN THREAD A SKEWER THROUGH 'EM AND ROAST 'EM.


PORO (PLICK)
THEY FEEL NASTY IN YOUR MOUTH, SO TAKE THE LEGS OFF THE PEARL CENTIPEDES.


CHAAA (HISSS)

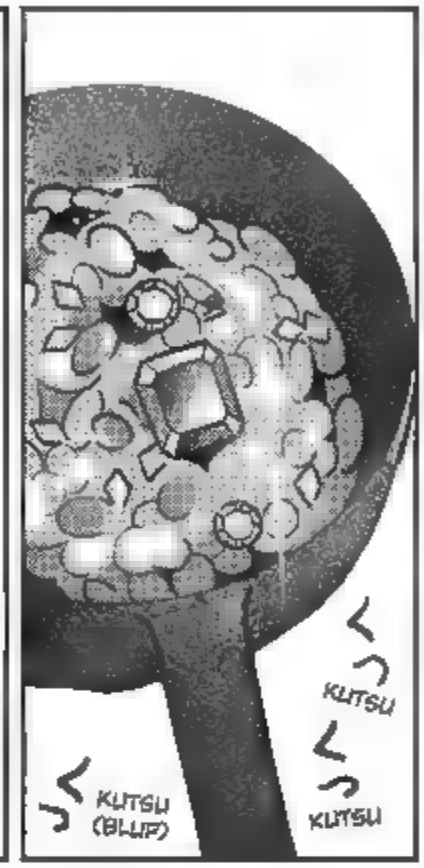

ABDOMEN
FRY THE COIN BUGS WITH THEIR ABDOMENS FACING DOWN.

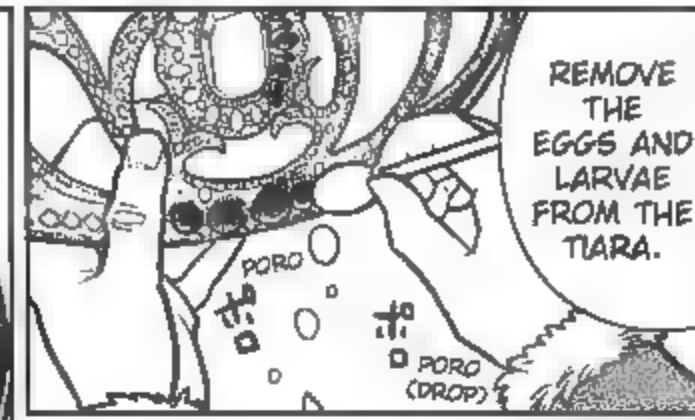
HEAT UP SOME OIL.

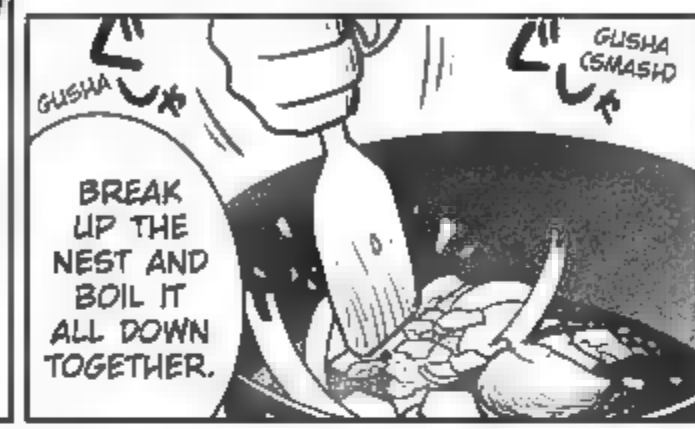
IF YOU SERVE 'EM WITH THEIR BACKS FACING UP, THEY'RE PRETTY.

ZAAAA (SHUF)
HUP!

...THEN TOSS THEM IN THE OIL TILL THEY'RE EVENLY COATED.
SPRIN-KLE ON SOME SALT...
GASHA
GASHA (SHUFF)







NATURALLY ■ DELICIOUS TREASURE INSECT SNACKS♪

TREASURE INSECT NEST JAM
Ingredients
Treasure insect nest—1 (with eggs and larvae)
Water——50 ml
Sugar——If needed

COIN BUG CRACKERS
Ingredients
Coin bugs—As many as needed
Salt——To taste
Oil——To taste

PEARL CENTIPEDE SKEWERS
Ingredients
Pearl centipedes—2
Salt——To taste

THEY'RE SORT OF A FOLK DISH, AREN'T THEY?
THEY LOOK AUSPICIOUS, SO THEY'RE GOOD LUCK.
BOILED IN SOY SAUCE

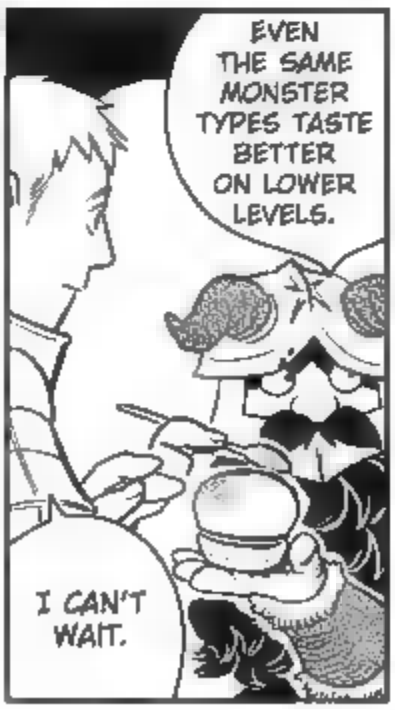
STILL, I'VE EATEN COIN BUGS BEFORE.

THEY'RE PRETTY, BUT NOT VERY APPETIZING.

MOST DUNGEON MONSTERS TASTE BETTER THAN THE ONES ON THE OUT-SIDE.
THEY LOSE FLAVOR ABOVE-GROUND.

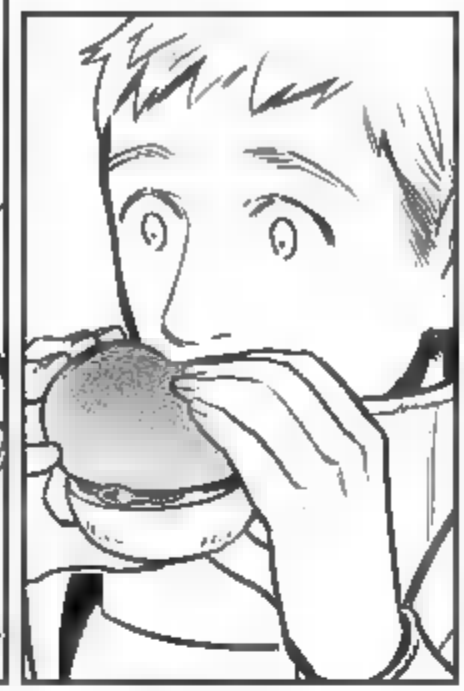
THIS IS WAY BETTE THAN THE ONES I ATE BEFORE.
HUH!?
WELL, SURE.

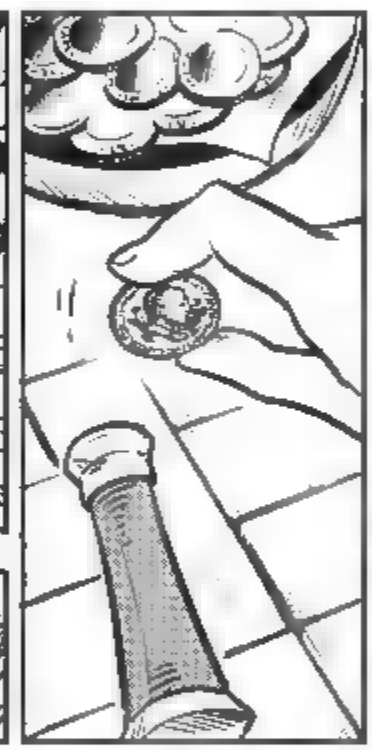
SAKU (CRUNCH)


EVEN THE SAME MONSTER TYPES TASTE BETTER ON LOWER LEVELS.
I CAN'T WAIT.

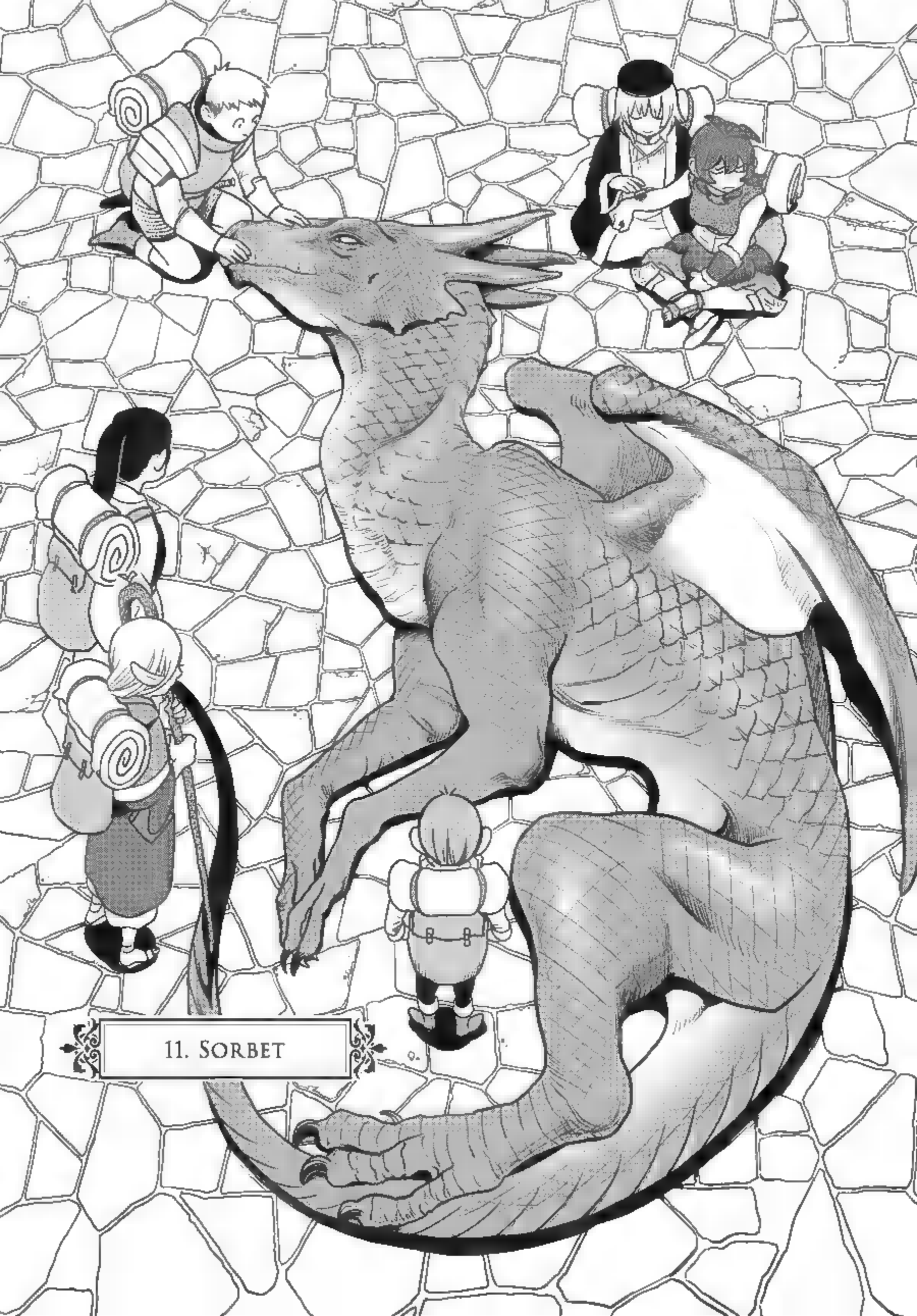
THESE ARE GOOD. LIKE LITTLE FISH.
SOMETHING GOOEY JUST...
I'M NEVER WEARING NECK-LACES AGAIN.
BORI (CRUNCH)
BORI

SFX: MUGU (MUNCH)

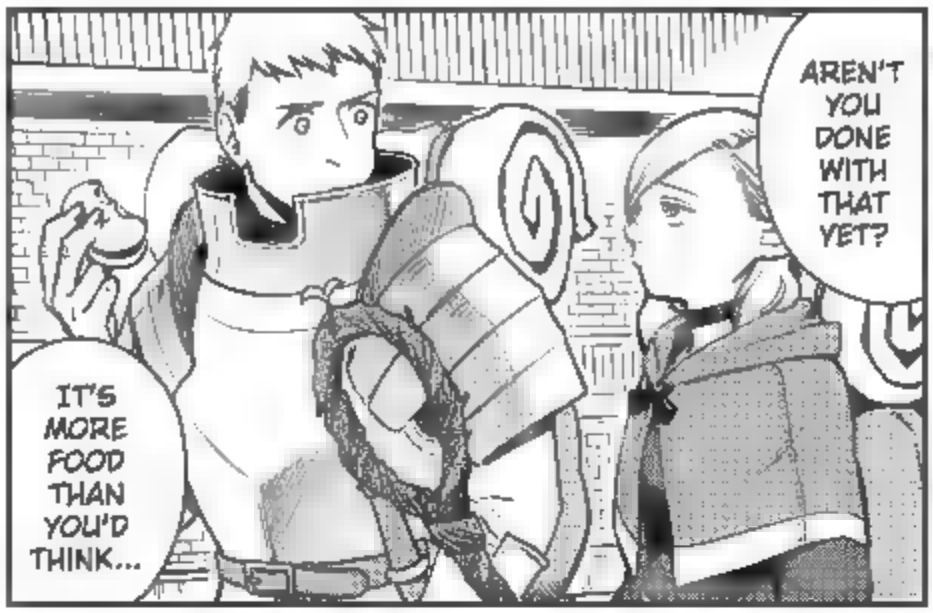




SFX: JYARA (CLINK)

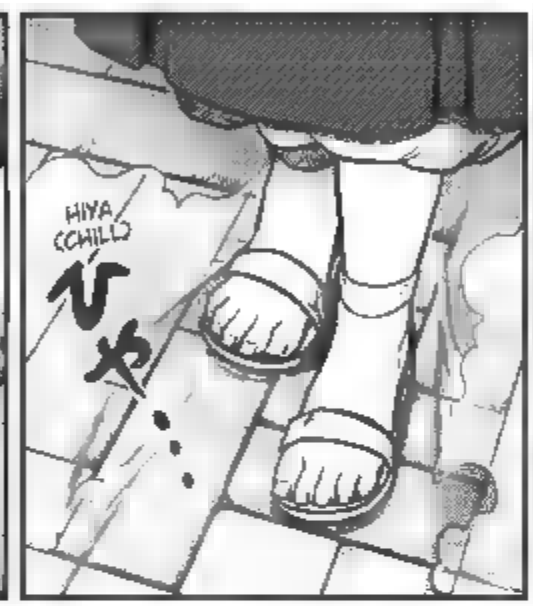


11. Sorbet

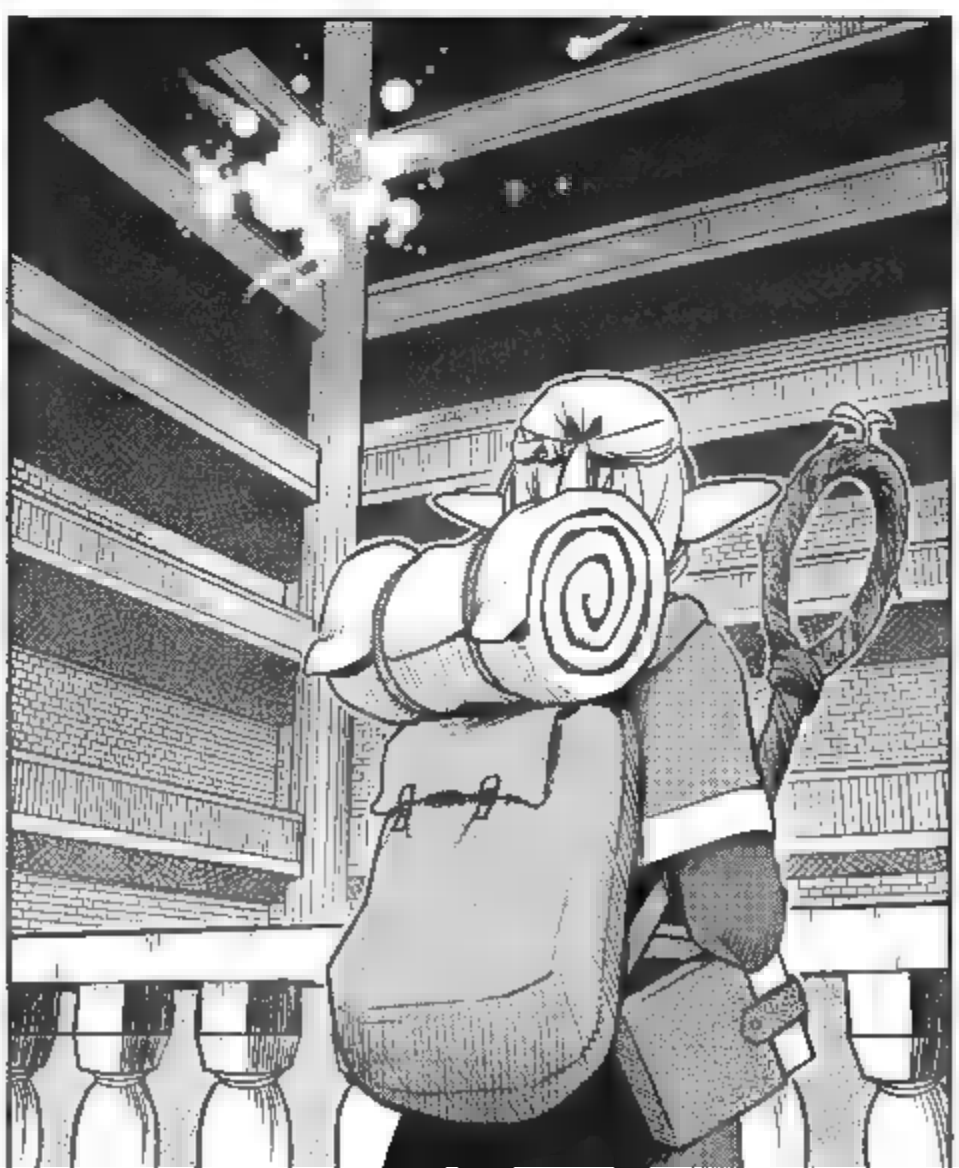

AREN'T YOU DONE WITH THAT YET?
IT'S MORE FOOD THAN YOU'D THINK...

MOGU (MUNCH)
もぐ

ぞく
ZOKU (SHUDDER)


HIYA (CHILL)
ひや

I SWEAR... YOU MAKE ME TIRED.



IT GOT COLD ALL OF A SUDDEN.

GHOSTS ?
THEY WERE PROBABLY DRAWN TO THOSE CORPSES.

THAT'S A LOT OF GHOSTS.
LET'S GO. WE'LL BE IN TROUBLE IF THEY SPOT US.

THOSE HAZY WHITE THINGS... AREN'T THOSE...?

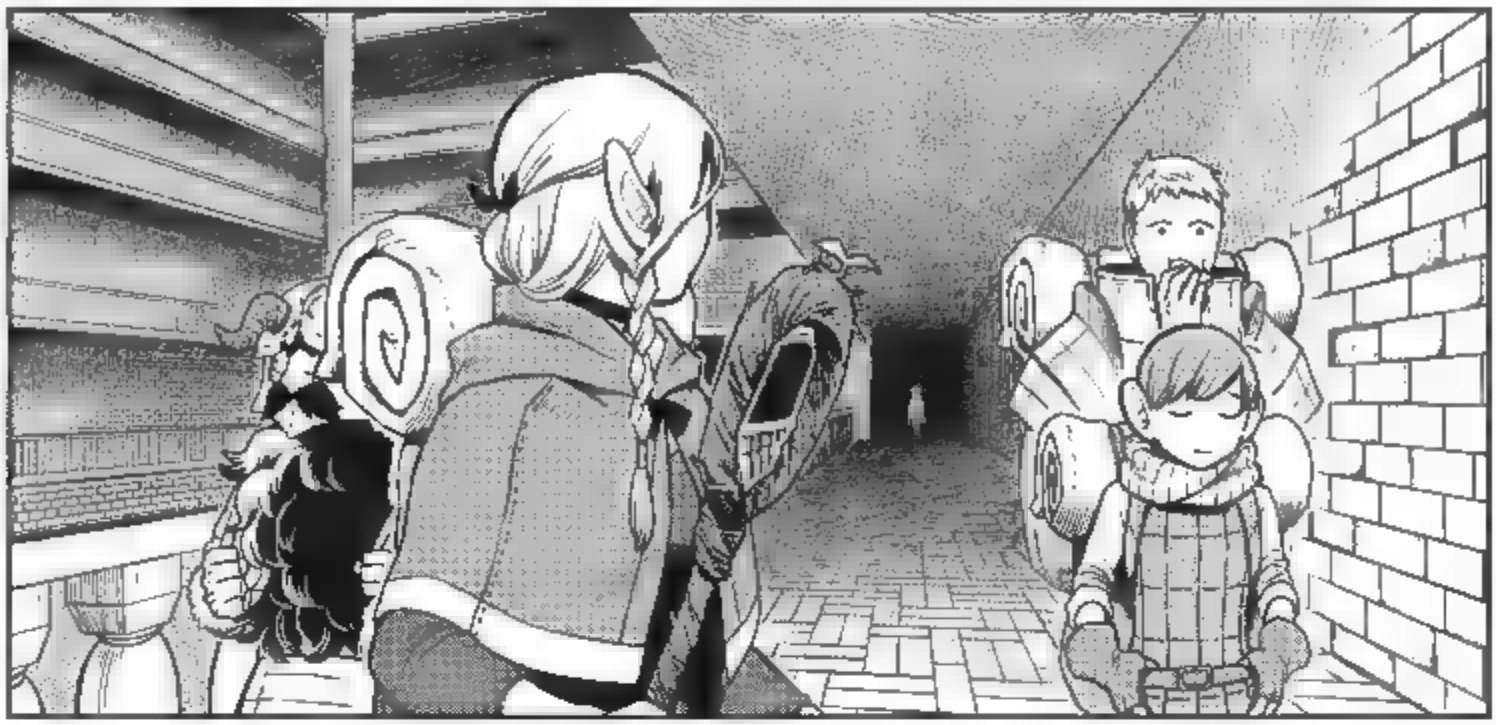
...IT'S LONELY, ISN'T IT.

RIGHT. FALIN'S NOT HERE.

THEY'RE NOTHING, THOUGH. JUST CAST A SPELL, AND—
OH.

THEY SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO POSSESS THOSE CORPSES, AT LEAST...

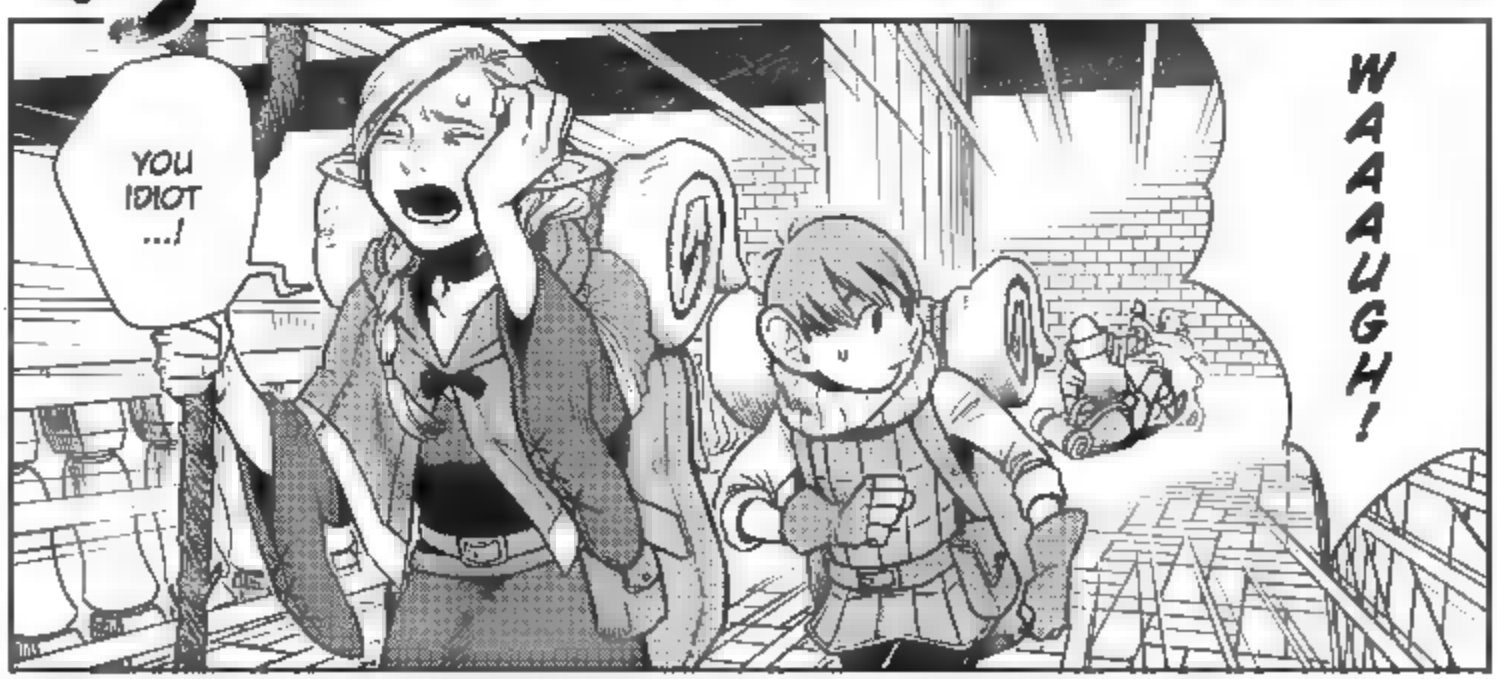
IT WASN'T MUCH, BUT I DID SAY A PRAYER.



RUN!
SOME-THING'S... BACK THERE.

AH!
PORO (DROP)

ZUWAA (FWOOSH)


YOU IDIOT ...!
WAAAUGH!

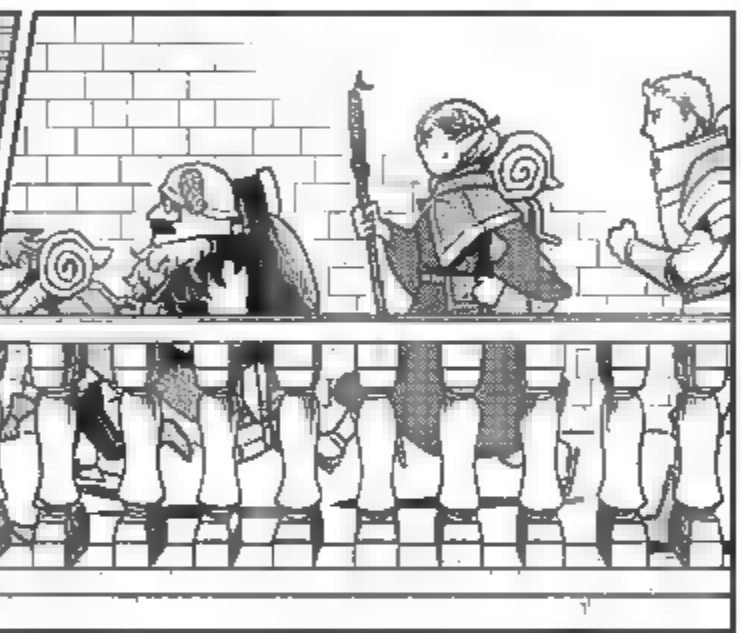
BUN (SWIPE)
SUKA (SWISH)
PISHI (KRIKL)
PISHI
PISHI
KEH KEH KEH...
GU (GUFF)
PAAN (BANG)

THAT NOISE DREW A TON OF THEM.
HEE HEE
HEE!
AH HA!

HEE HEE...

HURRY, HURRY!
SORRY.
MY EARS!
THE NEXT ONE'S COM-ING!

SOMETHING MORE SUBTLE WOULD FINE, LIKE WHAT FALIN WOULD DO.
IS THAT BIG, FLASHY MAGIC ALL YOU'VE GOT, MARCILLE?



...SHE WAS REALLY GOOD WITH GHOSTS.

FALIN...
THAT'S LAIOS'S LITTLE SISTER. ANYWAY...

DON'T YOU KNOW HOW ADVANCED HER MAGIC WAS!?
"SUB-TLE" !?

OKAY. YOU'LL BE FINE NOW.

PA (BEAM)

THE GHOSTS WON'T BE ABLE TO TOUCH YOU, MARCILLE.

TON (TAP)

TON

I DON'T WANT TO DO THAT UNLESS I NEED TO.

IT'D BE EASY WITH YOUR MAGIC, RIGHT, FALIN?

LET'S MOVE.

MM...

WOULDN'T IT BE FASTER TO JUST BLOW APART THE GHOSTS WHEN THEY SHOW UP?

.....

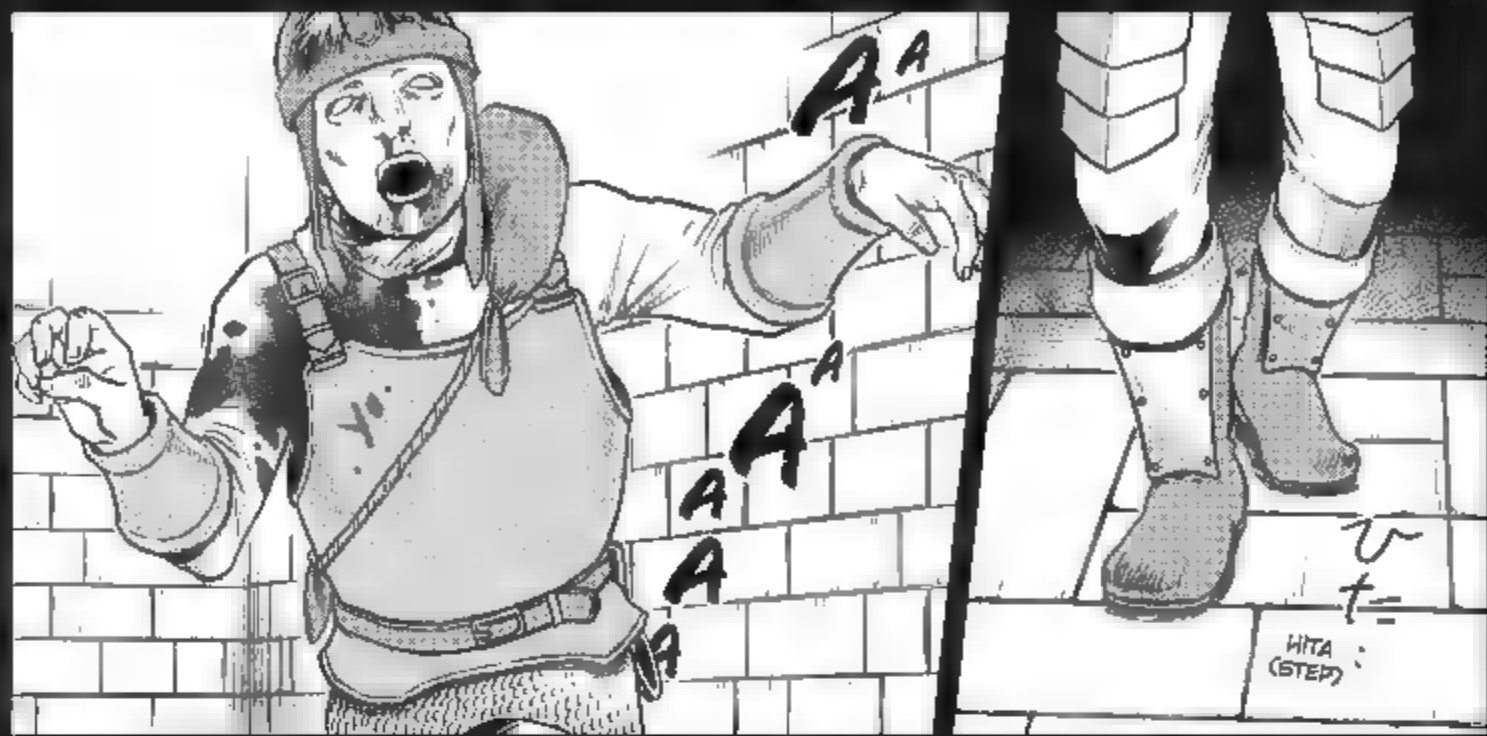
NICE THOUGHT, BUT...

SHE'S SUCH A GOOD GIRL!

TON

IT WOULD JUST HURT THEM FOR NO REASON.

SHATTERED GHOSTS GO BACK TO NORMAL AFTER A WHILE.


HITA (STEP)

OKAY.
HANG ON. I'LL DISABLE HIM.

YEAH.
HE'S LISTED AS MISSING.

THE ONES THAT STEAL FOLKS' BODIES COULD USE A LITTLE PUNISHMENT, RIGHT?

WAIT, FALIN!
DON'T BE RECK-LESS!

LET [redacted] DO IT. WE DON'T NEED TO HURT HIM.

DO
(WHUMP)

BUWA
(FWOOSH)

I'M
SORRY.
I'M
TAKING
HIM
BACK.

GYUU
(SQUEEZE)
GIRI
(CREAK)

FALIN!
ZUZU
(GLUMP)

IF...

YES.
FALIN WAS REALLY INCREDI-BLE.

IT SOUNDS LIKE SHE WAS IMPOR-TANT.

ARE YOU PLANNING TO BLOW UP EVERY ONE OF THOSE GHOSTS?
DON'T.
IT'S FINE IF I DO IT FALIN'S WAY, ISN'T IT!?

IF THE GHOSTS CATCH UP TO US...
...I'LL JUST HAVE TO HANDLE THEM WITH MY MAGIC.

HEE
HEE HEE!
HEE HEE!

BUTSU
A GENTLY ENFOLDING EXPLOSION.
BUTSU (MUTTER)
EXPLODE THEM GENTLY.
YOU CAN'T! YOU REALLY CAN'T, ALL RIGHT !?

HE'S RIGHT. IF WE JUST STAND HERE ARGUING, THEY'LL CATCH US.
UM, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

HAH!
...IT LOOKS LIKE IT WON'T BE EASY TO ESCAPE THE DEAD.

A TALIS-MAN?
HOLY WATER.

MAKING A TALISMAN TO EXORCISE THE GHOSTS.

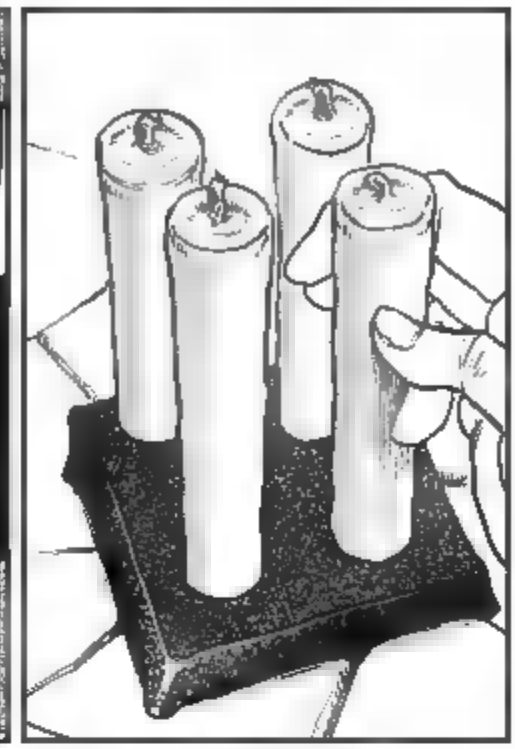
PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD HAVE ALL KINDS OF CUSTOMS FOR EXPELLING VARIOUS DEMONS.

YOU'RE MAKING IT...?
YOU'RE A CLERIC?

YOU HAVE THAT!?
NO. I'M MAKING SOME NOW.

PO
GLOW

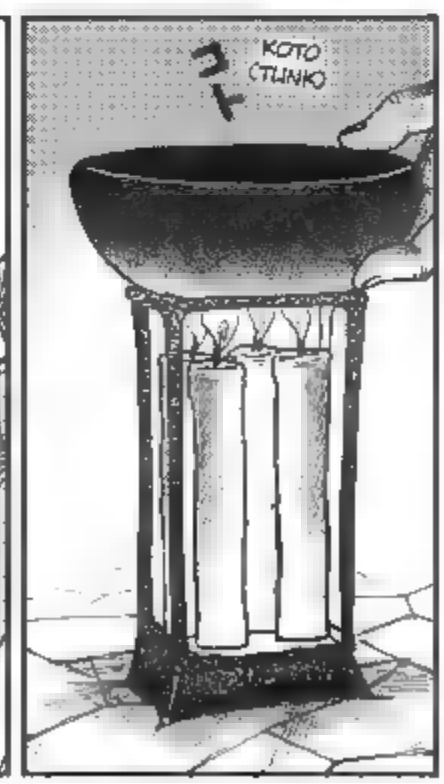
KA
KA
GRAB



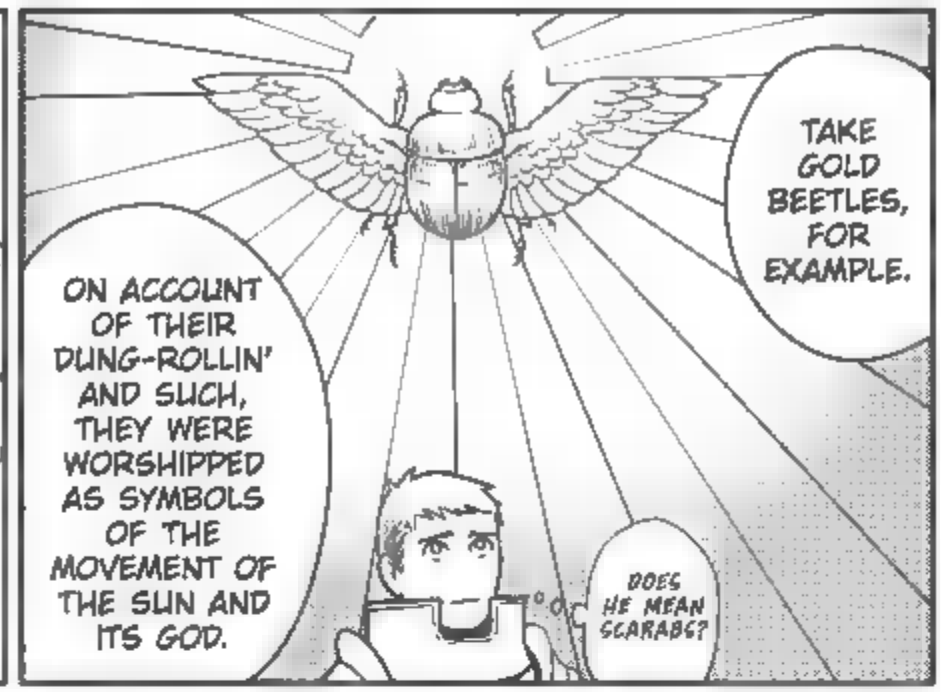
FIRE DRIVES AWAY THE DARKNESS. IT CAN CREATE OR CONSUME.
IT'S BEEN USED AS A TALISMAN AND SACRED OBJECT IN ALL AGES AND PLACES.
FIRE, FOR ONE.

INDIVID-UALLY, THEY'RE WEAK, BUT...
...TO-GETHER THEY'LL GENERATE DECENT POWER.

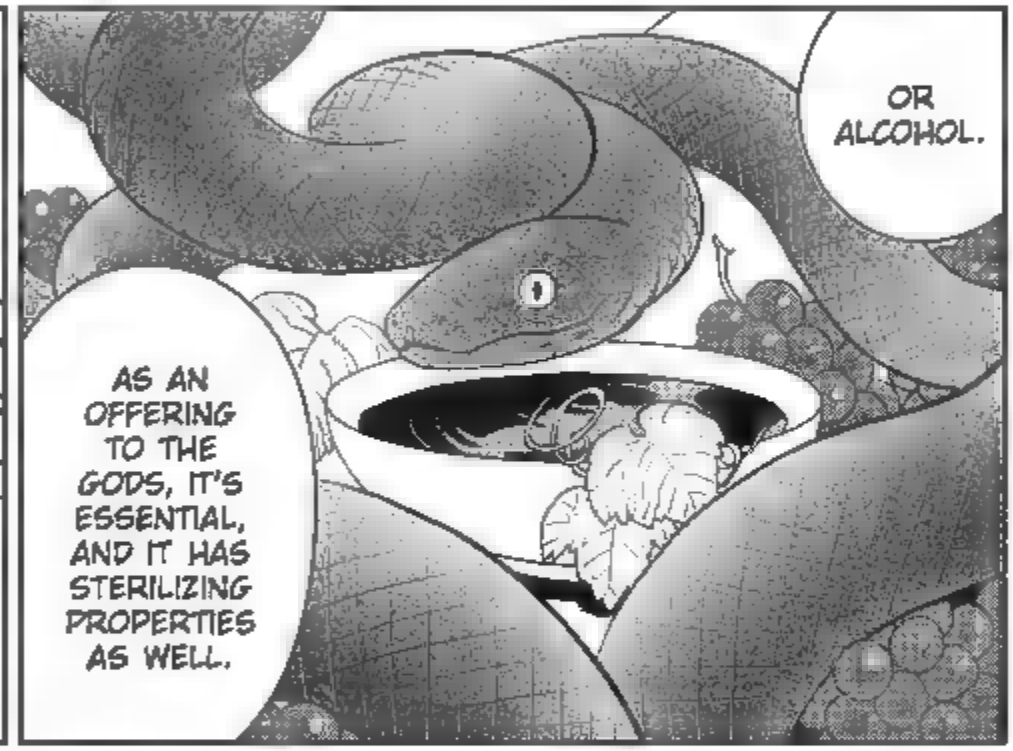
THAT'S TRUE, BUT...
...AGAINST GHOSTS, CANDLE FLAMES WON'T—


KOTO
CLUNK

BOCHA (SPLAT)


TAKE GOLD BEETLES, FOR EXAMPLE.
ON ACCOUNT OF THEIR DUNG-ROLLIN' AND SUCH, THEY WERE WORSHIPPED AS SYMBOLS OF THE MOVEMENT OF THE SUN AND ITS GOD.
DOES HE MEAN SCARABS?

TOKU (GLUG)
TOKU
PACHA (SPLISH)

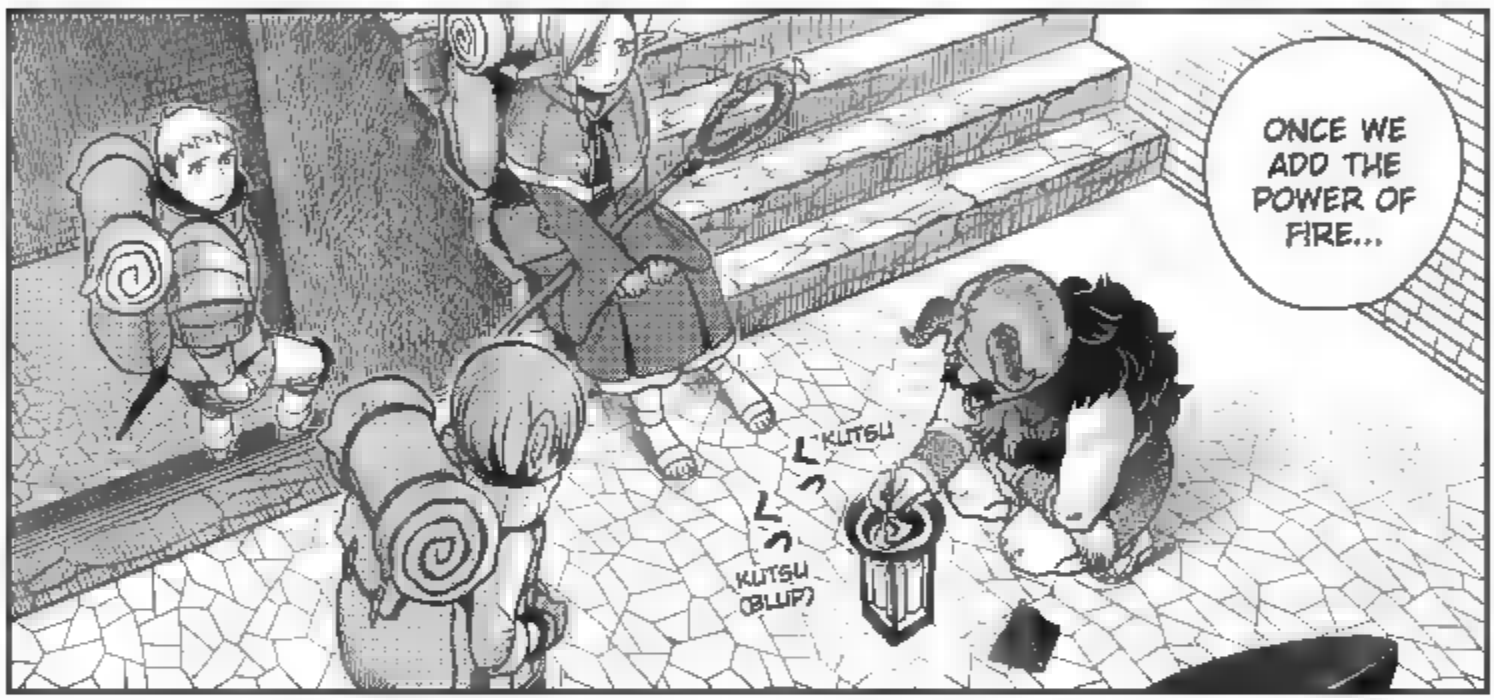

OR ALCOHOL.
AS AN OFFERING TO THE GODS, IT'S ESSENTIAL, AND IT HAS STERILIZING PROPERTIES AS WELL.

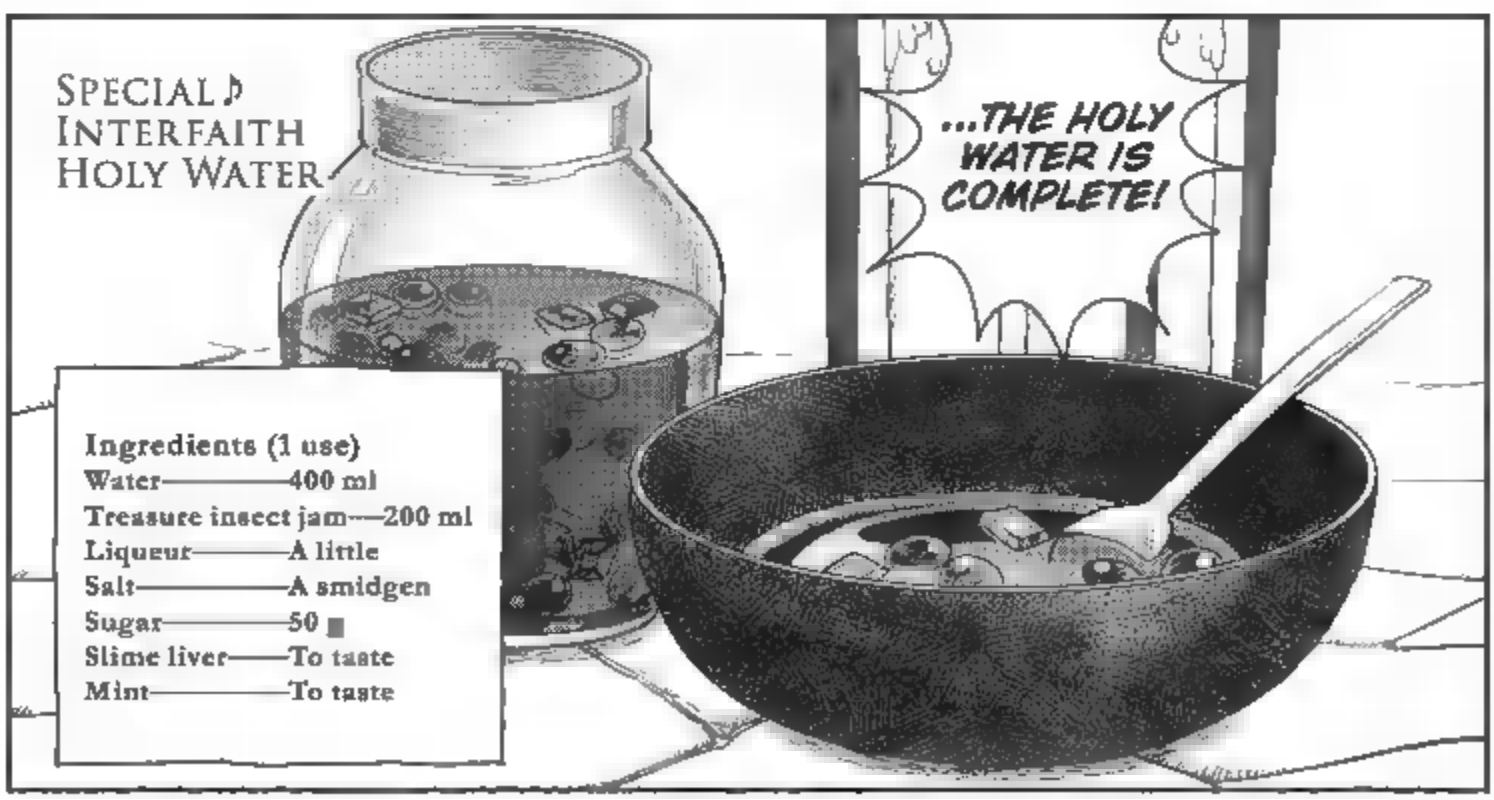
ITS POWERS ARE WEAK, SO I'LL PUT IN LOTS.
...AND SUGAR LOOKS LIKE SALT, SO I'LL ADD THAT TOO.
ZAA (SHUFFFF)
COULD YOU GET ANY MORE SLAP-DASHI?

OR SALT.
PARA (SIFT)
SOME PEOPLE USE IT TO WARD OFF EVIL AND PURIFY THEIR BODIES.

GARI
GARI (SCRIT)
...AND THE ORGANS OF VARIOUS CRITTERS.

THEN THERE ARE HERBS...


ONCE WE ADD THE POWER OF FIRE...
KUTSU
KUTSU (BLUP)


SPECIAL♪ INTERFAITH HOLY WATER
...THE HOLY WATER IS COMPLETE!
Ingredients (1 use)
Water——400 ml
Treasure insect jam——200 ml
Liqueur——A little
Salt——A smidgen
Sugar——50 ■
Slime liver——To taste
Mint——To taste

JUST HANG ON.

BIND IT WITH CORD...

HERE THEY ARE!

SEAL IT!?

WE'RE NOT GOING TO USE IT!?

FILL A JAR WITH HOLY WATER, THEN SEAL IT TIGHTLY.

NU (LOOM)

KYA HA!

SFX: ZOKU (SHUDDER)

IF THIS KEEPS UP, WE'LL...

AH...

HEE HEE HEE!

IT'S NO USE.

IF I'D BEEN THE ONE EATEN BY THE DRAGON...
...THINGS WOULDN'T BE IN THIS WRETCHED STATE.

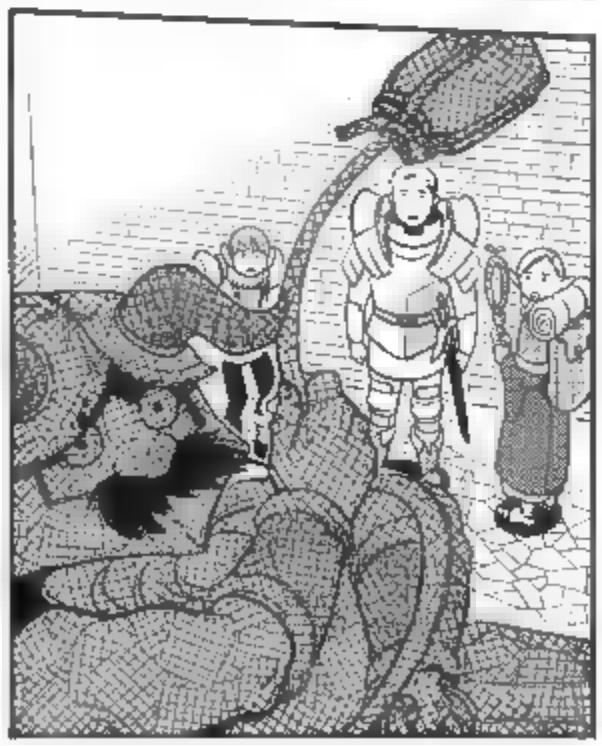
IF ONLY SHE HADN'T PROTECTED ME BACK THEN.

FORGIVE ME, FALIN...

I JUST SAW MY DEAD DAD ACROSS A RIVER...
AAAH!
.....
WH-WHAT IS THAT?

THE GHOSTS THAT TOUCH THE JAR OF HOLY WATER ARE VANISHING.

THAT HOLY WATER ACTUALLY WORKS.
SO IT WASN'T A JOKE...

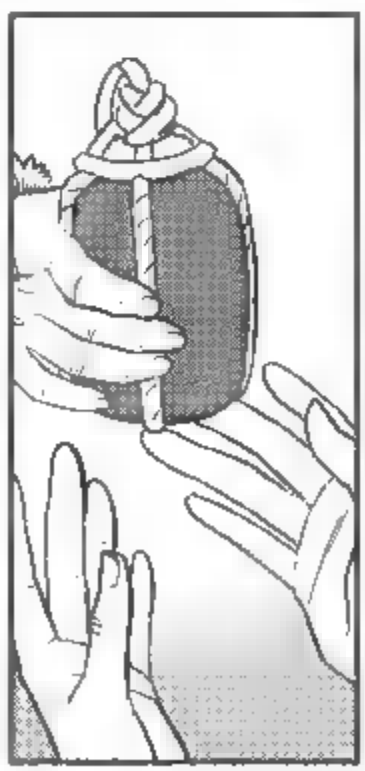


AND ANYWAY, SHE'S NOT A GHOST YET!
FALIN WOULD NEVER...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.

I MIGHT HAVE [redacted] POSSESSED.
...BY FALIN.

WE'RE ALL WE HAVE NOW...
...SO WE HAVE TO USE THE POWER WE'VE GOT.

THINKING THAT ONLY FALIN WAS CAPABLE OF HANDLING SOME-THING...
...OR THAT IT WOULD BE EASIER WITH HER HERE.

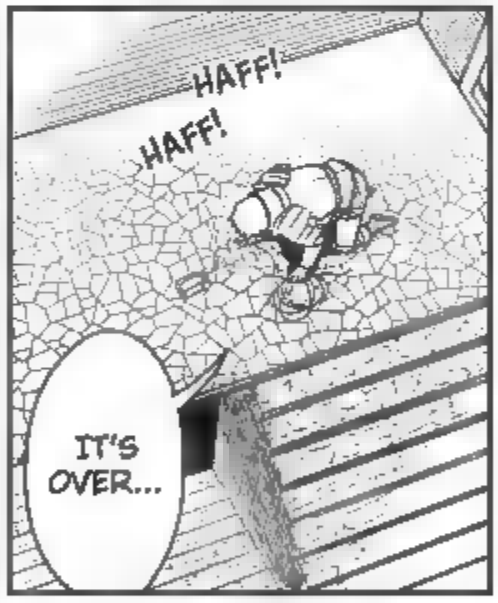


SENSHI.
LET ME HELP TOO.

...
YOU'RE RIGHT.

USING IT LIKE THIS IS MORE EFFECTIVE THAN SPRINKLING IT AROUND.
TRUE. IF THEY CAN GO THROUGH WALLS, THE JAR AND LID SHOULDN'T MATTER.
ひんや
HINYARI (COOL)

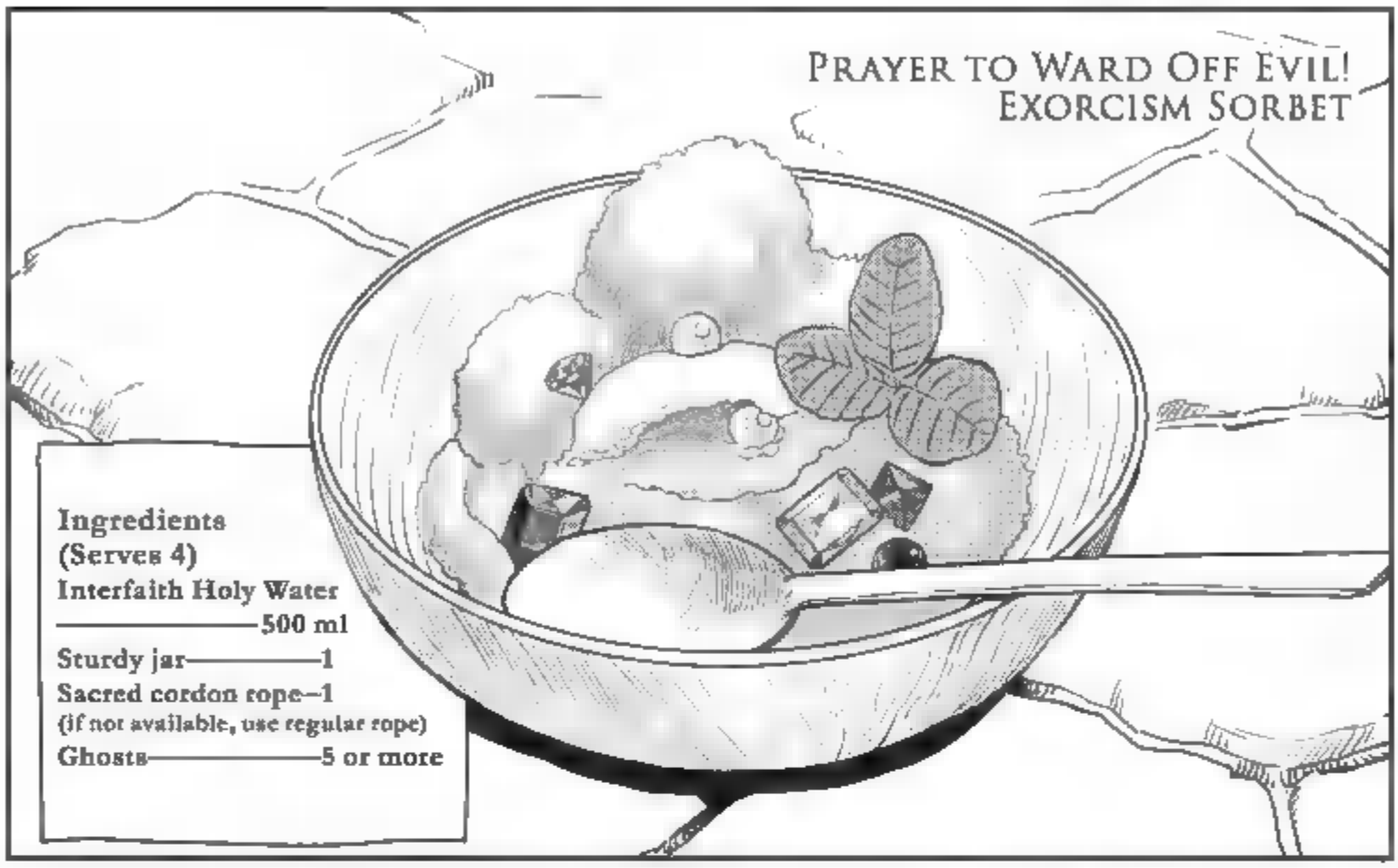
W-WOW. THERE'S FROST ON IT.


HAFF!
HAFF!
IT'S OVER...

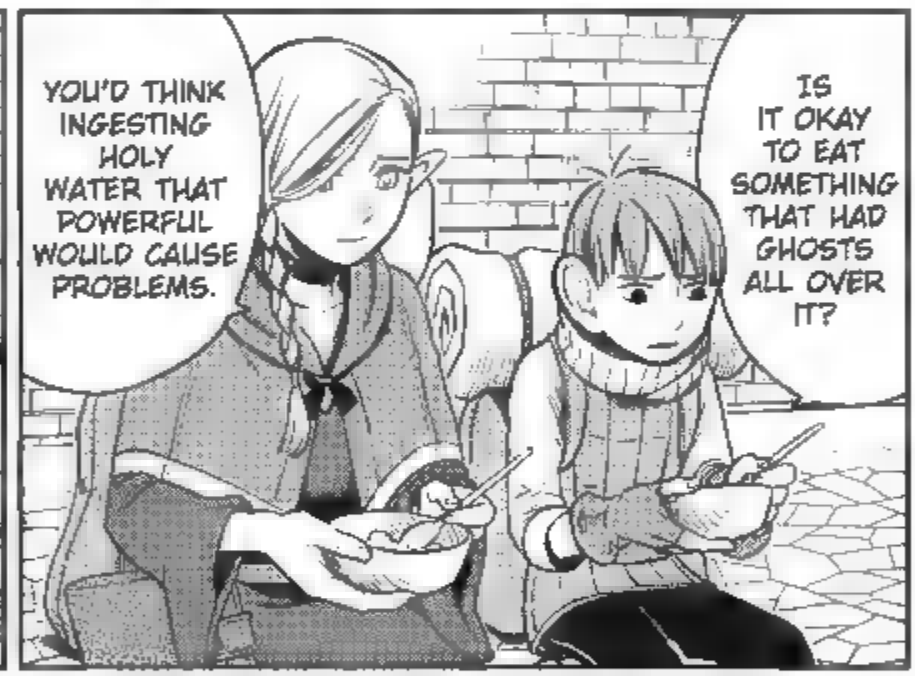
WE'VE GOT ICE CREAM.

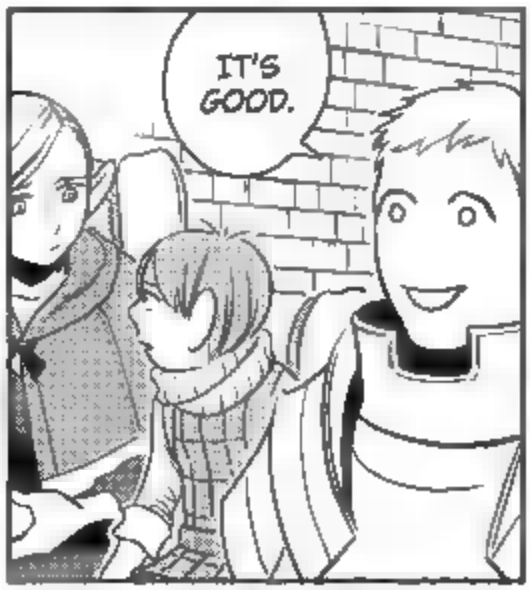
PERO (LICK)

HM?
WAIT, THIS IS...


PRAYER TO WARD OFF EVIL!
EXORCISM SORBET
Ingredients
(Serves 4)
Interfaith Holy Water
500 ml
Sturdy jar 1
Sacred cordon rope 1
(if not available, use regular rope)
Ghosts 5 or more

I THINK WE'VE EATEN TOO MUCH SUGAR TODAY TOO.

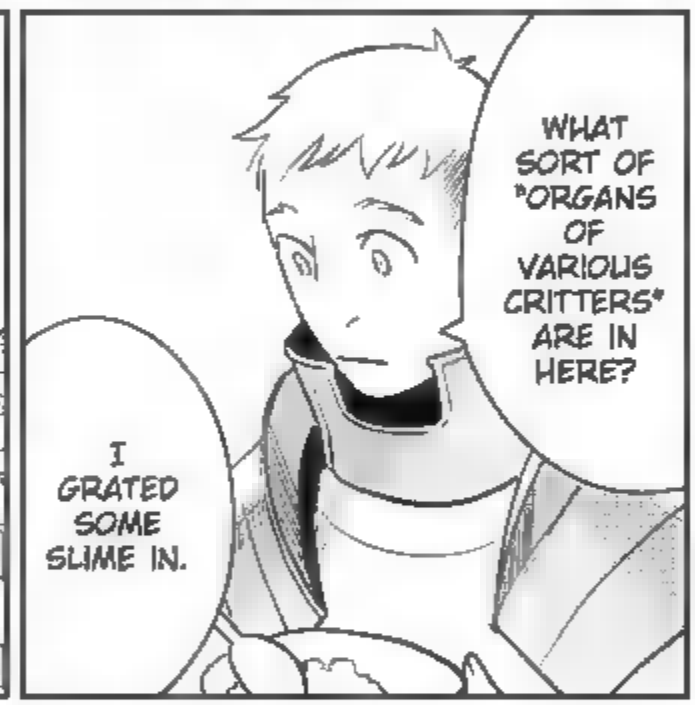

YOU'D THINK INGESTING HOLY WATER THAT POWERFUL WOULD CAUSE PROBLEMS.
IS IT OKAY TO EAT SOMETHING THAT HAD GHOSTS ALL OVER IT?


IT'S GOOD.

I GUESS WE EXORCISED THEM WITHOUT CAUSING MUCH OF A GRUDGE.
MM-HM, MM-HM.

YOU'RE RIGHT. IT'S TASTY.
SHAKU (CRUNCH)
MY! WHAT A NICE, BRISK FLAVOR.

IS THAT WHY IT'S A LITTLE JIGGLY?
IT GOES DOWN NICE AND SMOOTH.


WHAT SORT OF "ORGANS OF VARIOUS CRITTERS" ARE IN HERE?
I GRATED SOME SLIME IN.

IF FALIN WERE HERE, WE WOULDN'T BE EATING SOMETHING THIS DELI-CIOUS NOW.

THIS IS...
WELL. YOU KNOW.

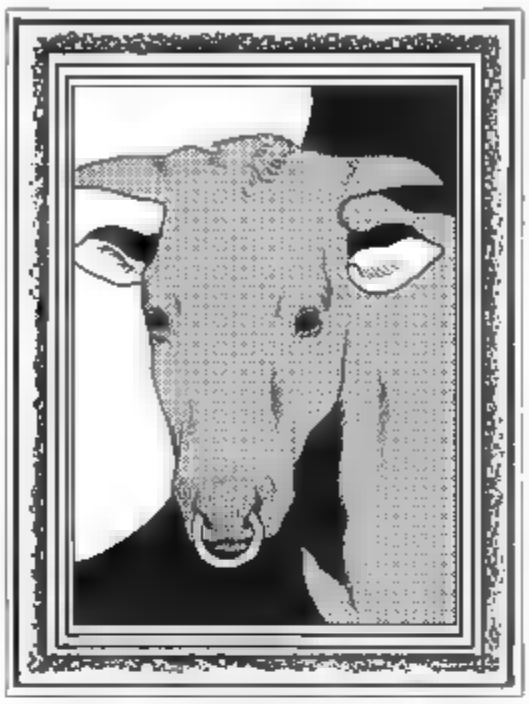
HUH!?

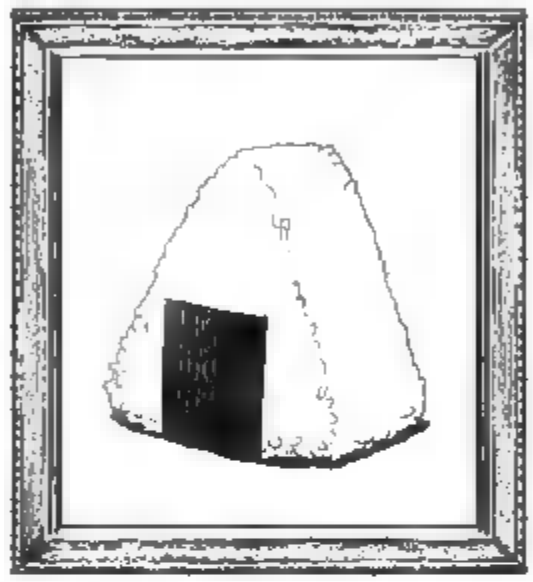
WHA...? YOU'RE ACTUALLY SAYING THAT!?

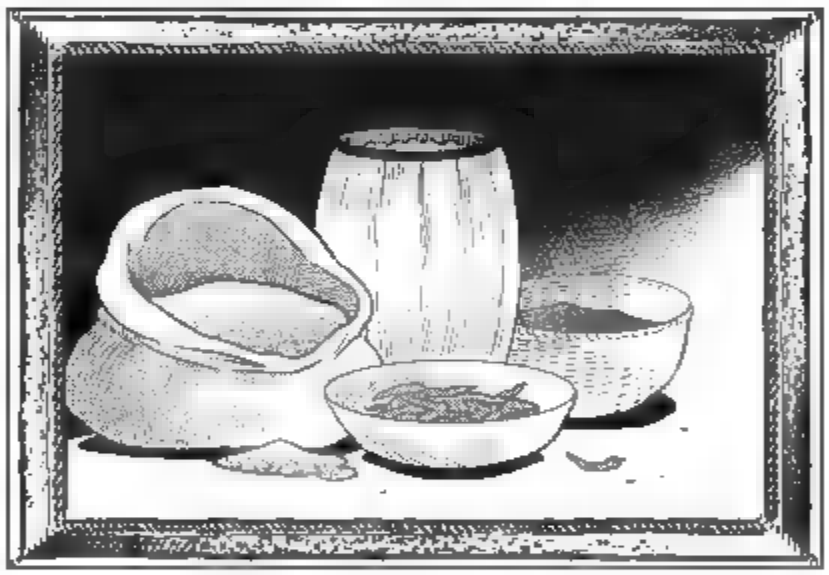
NOW!?

...YOU'RE GLAD THAT HAPPENED TO FALIN?

YOU MEAN ...



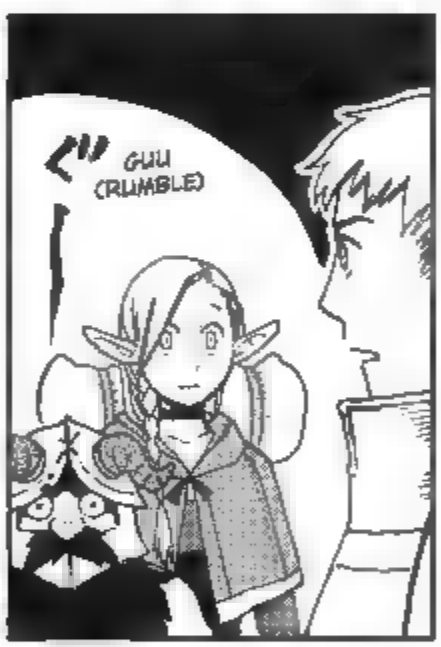




12. Court Cuisine

GACHI (RATTLE)
LOCKED AGAIN.

GIMME A LITTLE TIME.
I'LL GET IT OPEN FAST.


GUU (RUMBLE)

WE'VE WALKED A LONG WAY.
IT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA TO REST NEAR HERE TODAY.

HMM.

NO HELP FOR THAT. ALL WE'VE HAD TODAY ARE SNACKS.
BUT, LAIOS...
...I'M AGAINST STOP-PING.

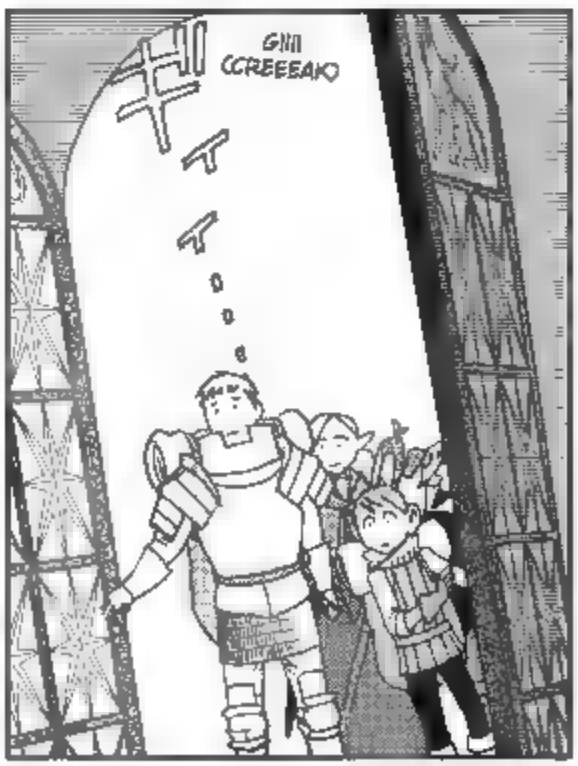
THAT WASN'T ME!
ANSWER-ING WITH YOUR STOMACH. NICE, MARCILLE.

EVEN IF IT MEANS PUSHING OURSELVES A BIT, WE SHOULD MAKE FOR THE FOURTH FLOOR.
HMM...

THE ONLY FOOD WE FOUND TODAY WAS A BOWLFUL OF TREASURE INSECTS.
THERE'S FAR TOO LITTLE TO EAT ON THIS FLOOR.

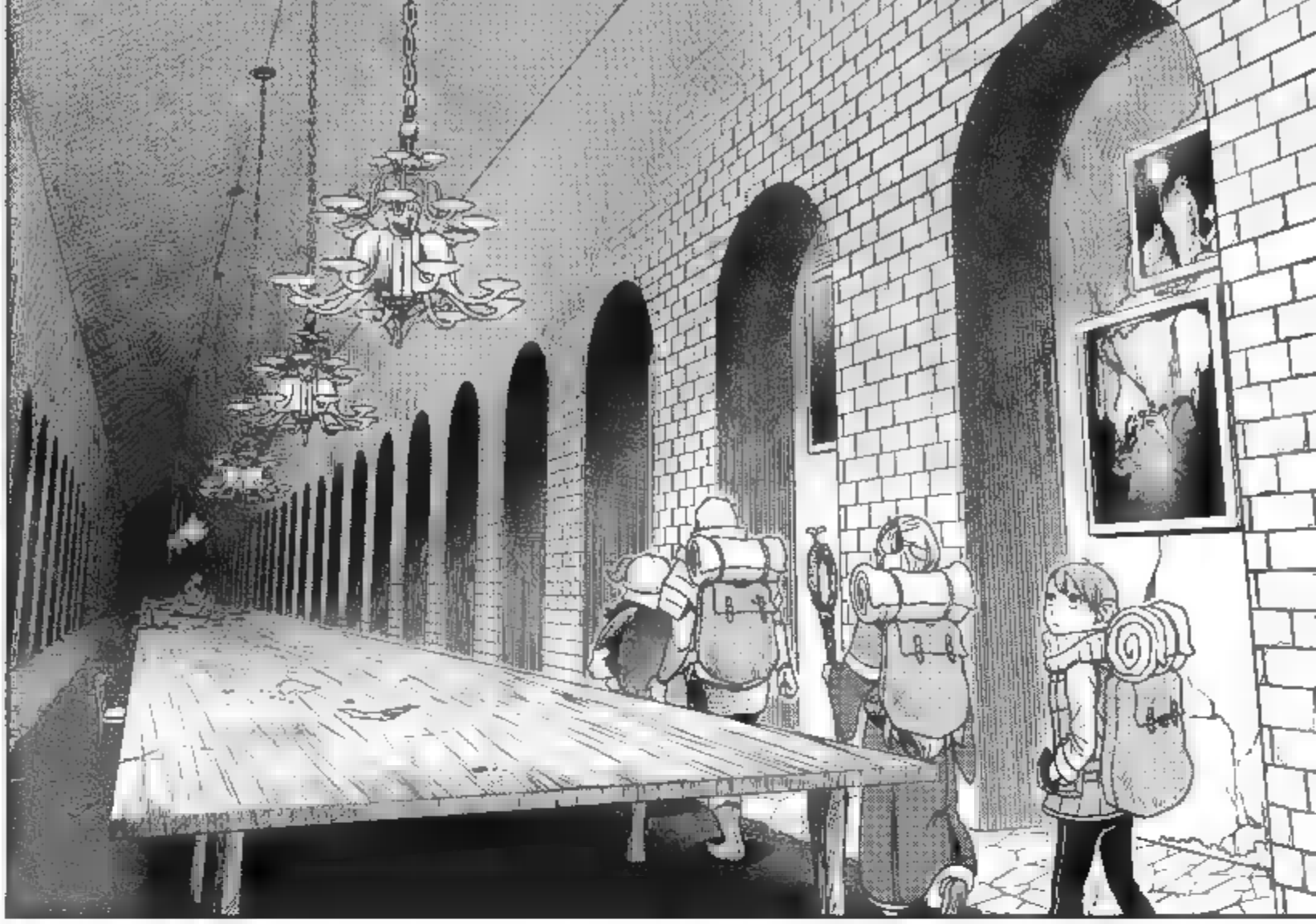
...THOUGH EVEN IF WE DO REST UP, IF WE KEEL OVER FROM HUNGER...
BUT IF WE HAVEN'T SAVED OUR STRENGTH, WE WON'T DEFEAT THE MONSTERS AHEAD...

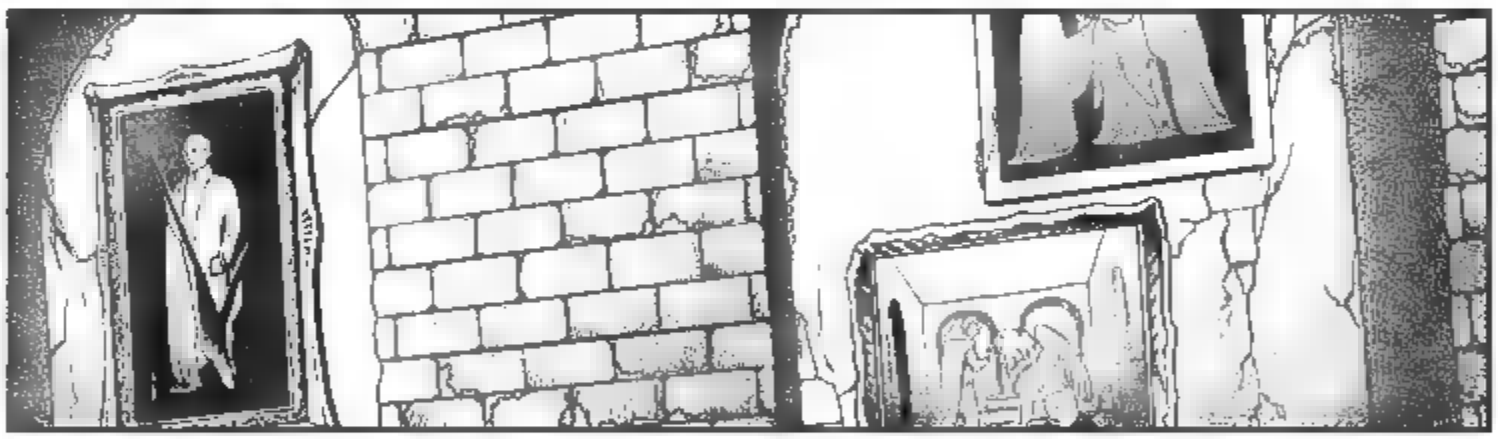
THE MONSTERS WILL GET STRONGER FROM HERE ON THOUGH.
I'D LIKE TO SAVE OUR STRENGTH.

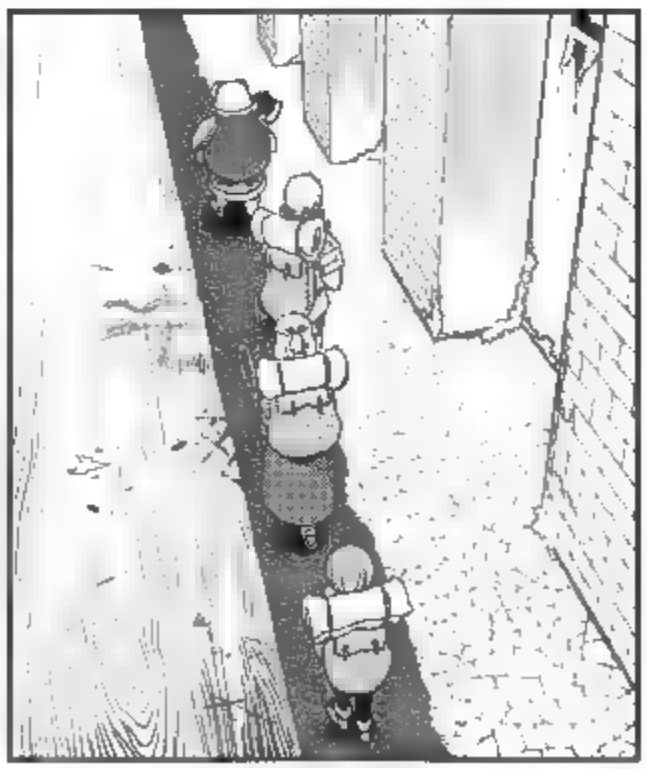

GNII (CREEEAK)
キィィィ...

IT'S OPEN.

KACCHAN (CLICK)
カッチャン
HMM...







YOU THINK IT WAS A DINING HALL?
THIS MUST'VE BEEN A FINE BANQUET TABLE ONCE.

FWOO...

ZUU (DRAG)

HAAH...
WHY DO WE ONLY GET ATTACKED BY DEAD PEOPLE?

AND NOW ONLY THE DEAD COME TO CALL, HUH?
I'M NOT EATING RATS, ALL RIGHT!?
NO RATS, EVEN.

ATTACKING...

AH!

DON'T BE DUMB.
WHY NOT A WHOLE ROASTED PIG?

GIRORI (GLARE)
#07

NO, THERE ARE SOME!
FOODS THAT WILL ATTACK US!

GUWAA (FOOM)
BA (FWIP)
A LIVING PICTURE!
HEY, LAIOS!

YOU'RE TOO CLOSE! DO YOU WANT TO GET PULLED IN!?
AW...
DOON (BOOM)
WHAT !?
YES! IT WAS JUST GETTING GOOD!

THAT PICTURE HAD GRAPES.

NO, I DON'T!
FORGET "PIE IN THE SKY"— YOU'RE TALKING "PIE IN A PICTURE"!
A-ARE YOU AN IDIOT?

RIGHT.
...YOU WERE TRYING TO EAT THE FOOD IN THE PICTURE.
YOU DON'T THINK IT'S A GOOD PLAN?

FINE. DO WHAT YOU WANT.

JUST ONCE THOUGH.

YOU'LL JUST GET KILLED IN A PIC-TURE.

THAT'S JUST IT!

THAT IT CAN PULL US IN PROVES WE CAN INTERACT WITH EACH OTHER.

...TRUE, PEOPLE CAN'T EAT PIE IN A PICTURE...

...BUT IF IT'S PIE IN A PICTURE OF A PERSON EATING PIE, THE LOGIC HOLDS!

AH-HA!

THIS ONE'S AMAZING. LOOK AT THAT FEAST.

WHICH PICTURE SHOULD I TRY...?

I'LL TIE A ROPE AROUND YOU.

WHEN YOU SIGNAL, WE'LL PULL FROM HERE.

OKAY.

I PICK THIS ONE.

GUWA
(WHIRL)
GUNYU
(RIPPLE)
HUP!!
SUPOOO
(POP)

YOU...
AH!

OW...

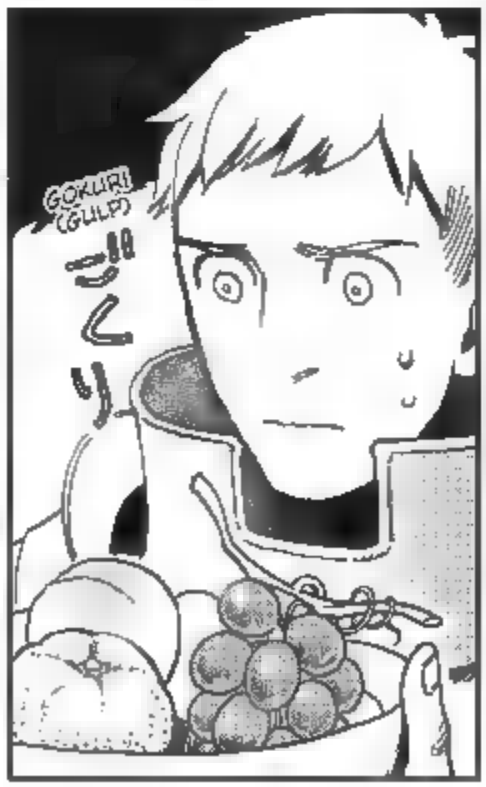
PU (PUFF)
BO (WHUNK)
OOF!

!?
HERE!
DOSA (WHUMP)

HUH?
MOZO (SQUIRM)

THAT SWORD...
CAUGHT RIGHT OFF THE BAT...
I DON'T RECOGNIZE THAT ARMOR, BUT YOU'RE A GUARD, AREN'T YOU?

THIS WAY! OVER HERE! FOCUS!


GOKURI! (GULP)

GO ON, CARRY THAT IN!
HON-ESTLY! NO MATTER HOW MANY PEOPLE WE HAVE, IT'S NEVER ENOUGH!

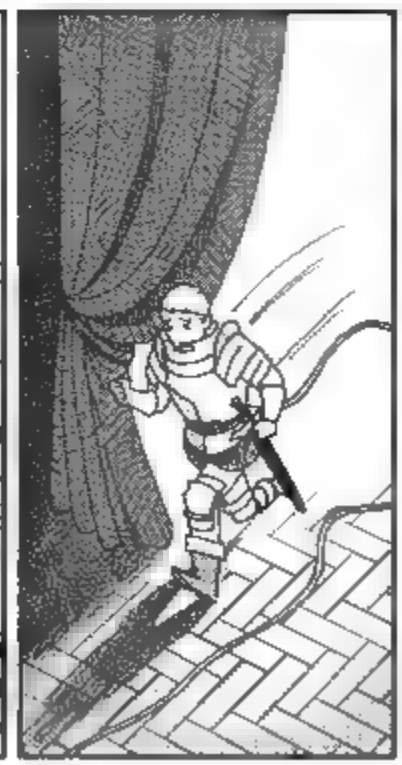
YES.
YES, YOU WILL.
HE'LL LEAD THE COUNTRY WELL SOMEDAY.
HE HAS YOUR NOSE.
LOOK AT THAT CLEVER LITTLE FACE!
BIKU (PUNCH)
RIGHT !!
UM...
HURRY AND BRING THE NEXT ONE IN.
DON'T JUST STAND THERE!
CAN I HAVE A BITE?
HUFF... HUFF...
MIZU
MIZU (JUICY)

HA HA HA!
DEL-GAL.
GROW INTO A GOOD KING!

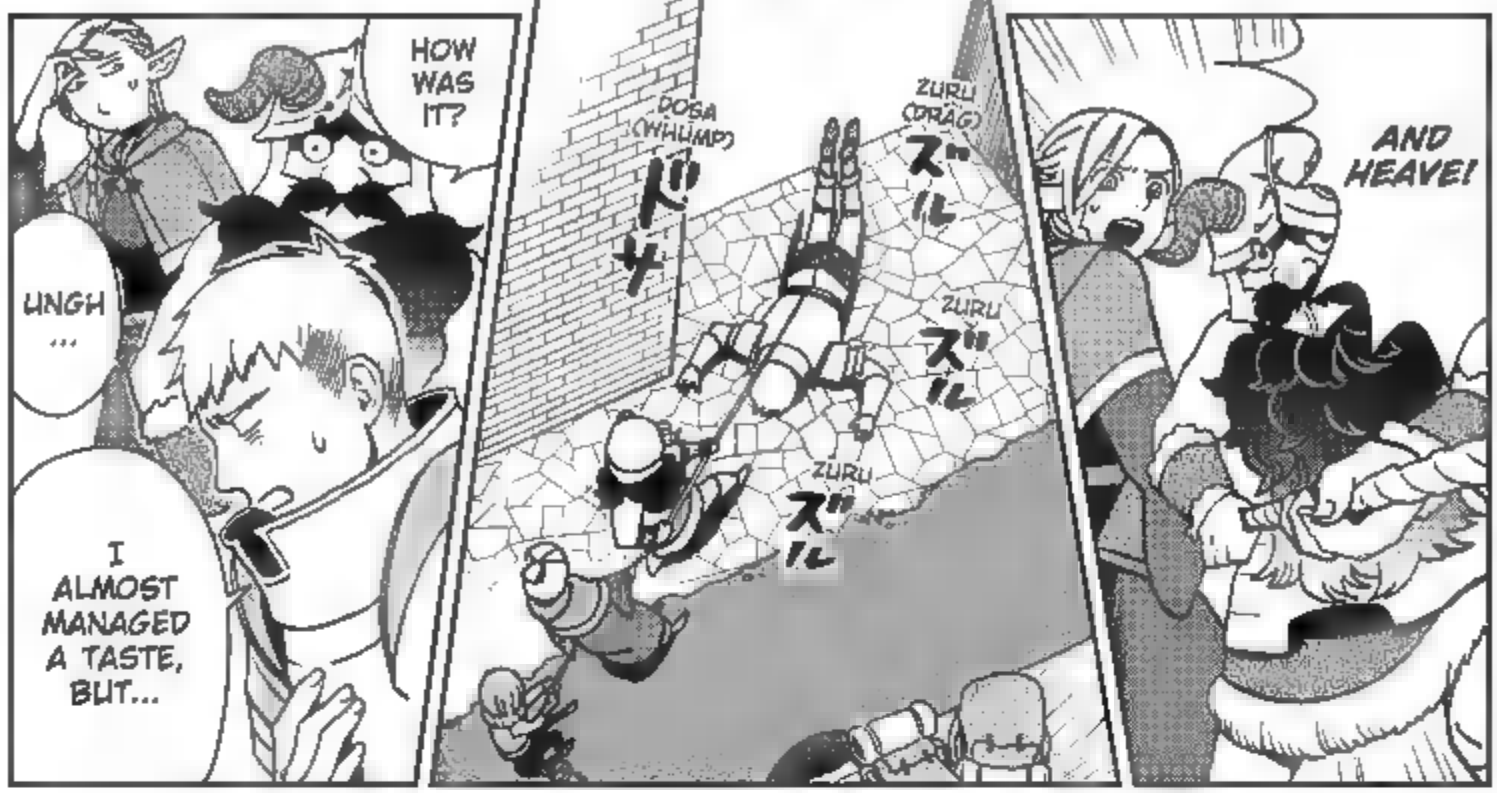
DEL-GAL!
YOUR NAME IS DELGAL!

FU FU FU!
HA HA HA!

GU (TUG)
GU
GET.
ME.
GU
OUT.
NOW.
GU



BA (FWIP)
I CAN'T!
I'LL NEVER GET A BITE IN HERE!
OH!


HOW WAS IT?
UNGH ...
I ALMOST MANAGED A TASTE, BUT...
DOSA (WHUMP)
ドサ
ZURU (DRAG)
ズル
ZURU
ズル
ZURU
ズル
AND HEAVE!

THAT'S A PROBLEM!?
THE ATMOSPHERE !?
YES, IT WAS DEFINITELY THE ATMOSPHERE'S FAULT.

...IT WAS JUST...
...THE ATMOSPHERE WAS ALL WRONG!

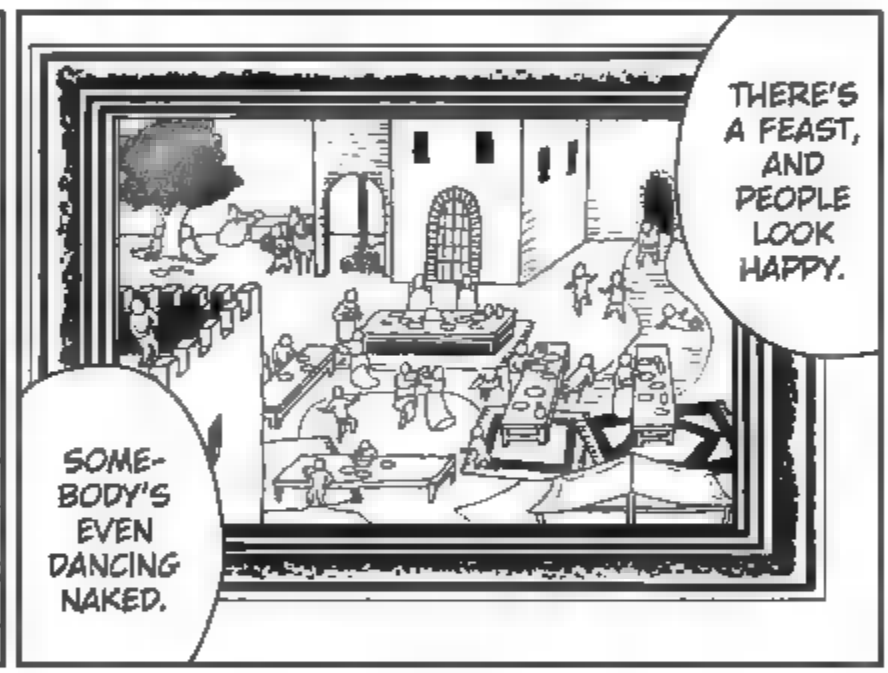
SOMEPLACE LESS FORMAL.

LET'S SEE...
LESS, UM...

ONE MORE TRY!!
IF THE SETTING WERE MORE APPROPRIATE, I COULD EAT!!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "APPROPRIATE"?

WHAT ABOUT THIS ONE?
"LESS FORMAL"?

THAT'S IT!


THERE'S A FEAST, AND PEOPLE LOOK HAPPY.
SOME-BODY'S EVEN DANCING NAKED.

I'LL BE BACK!
GUE (WHORL)

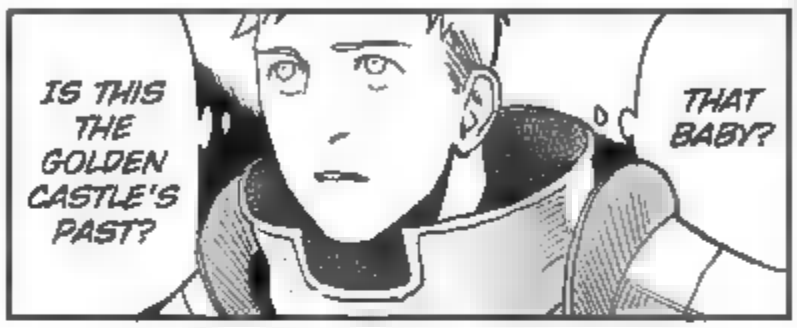
GUH!

DOSHA (WHUMP)

ドシャ

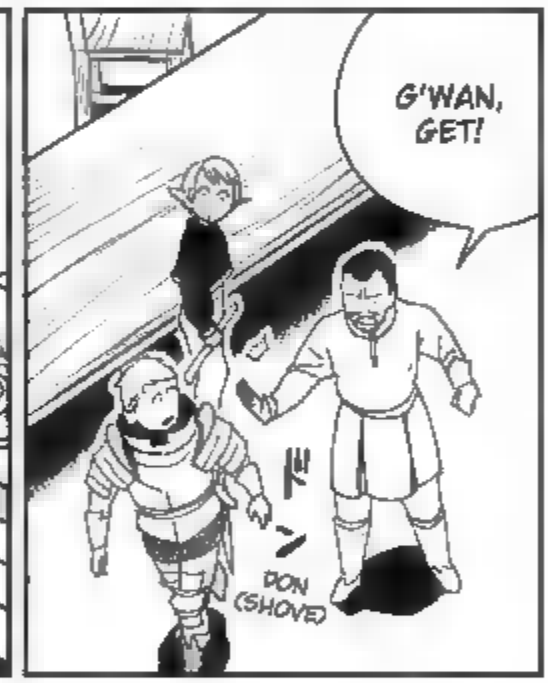
DELGAL...
BUT, LORD DELGAL ...

THIS IS MY WEDDING DAY.
LET HIM MAKE MERRY IF HE LIKES.


IS THIS THE GOLDEN CASTLE'S PAST?
THAT BABY?

DELGAL!

PHEW. SAVED.


G'WAN, GET!
DON (SHOVE)

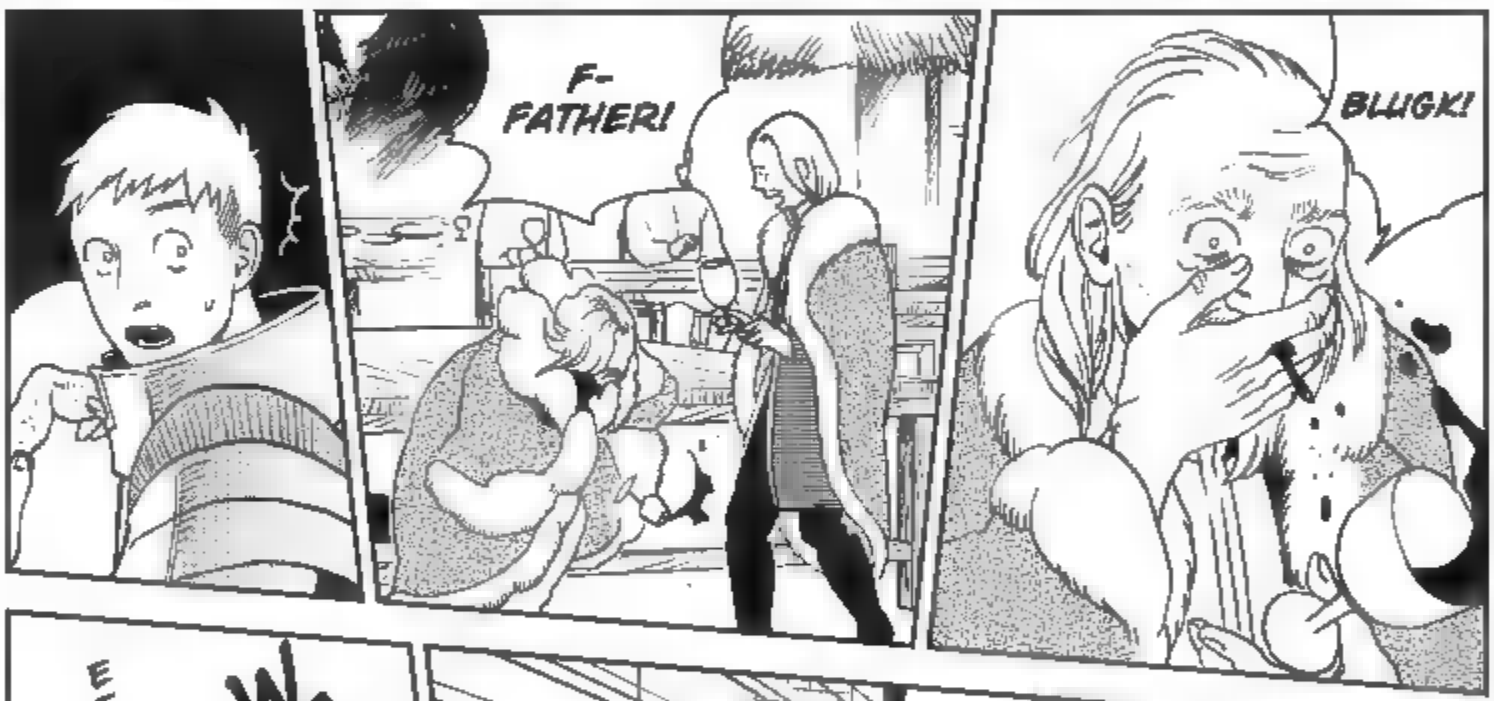
OH NO, NO.
SOMEONE BRING ME WINE.
NOT THAT CHEAP STUFF. HAVE THIS INSTEAD.

YOU'VE BECOME SUCH A FINE YOUNG MAN. I'M SO PROUD.
FATHER!

WOO-HOO!

TO THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTRY.

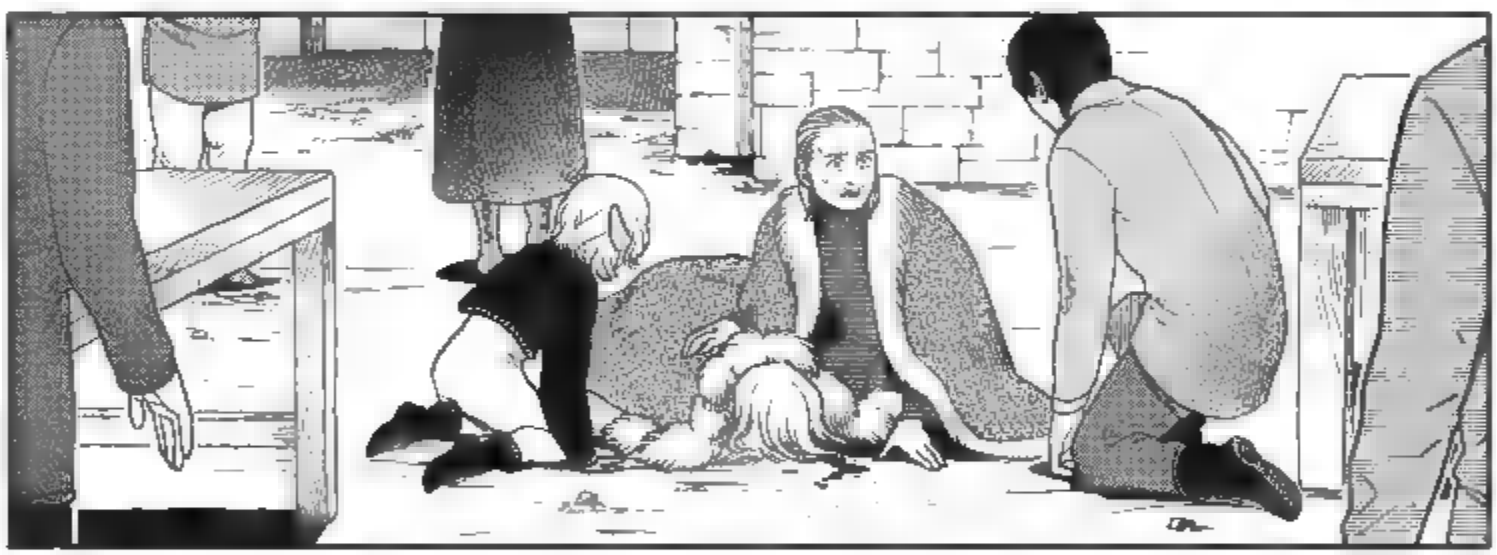
AAAAH...

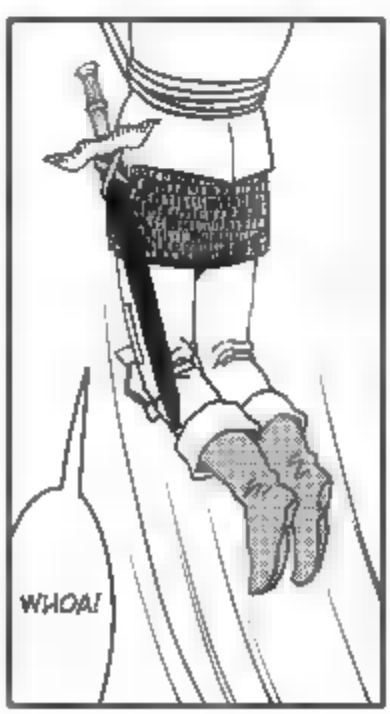

F-FATHER!
BLUGK!

EEEEEK!
WAAA
OH MAN ...
GARA (RATTLE)
GARA
GASHAN (CLANG)
FA-THER!
IT'S POI-SON!
GRAB THEM!

DON (BUMP)
MY KING!
OH. I'M SORRY.

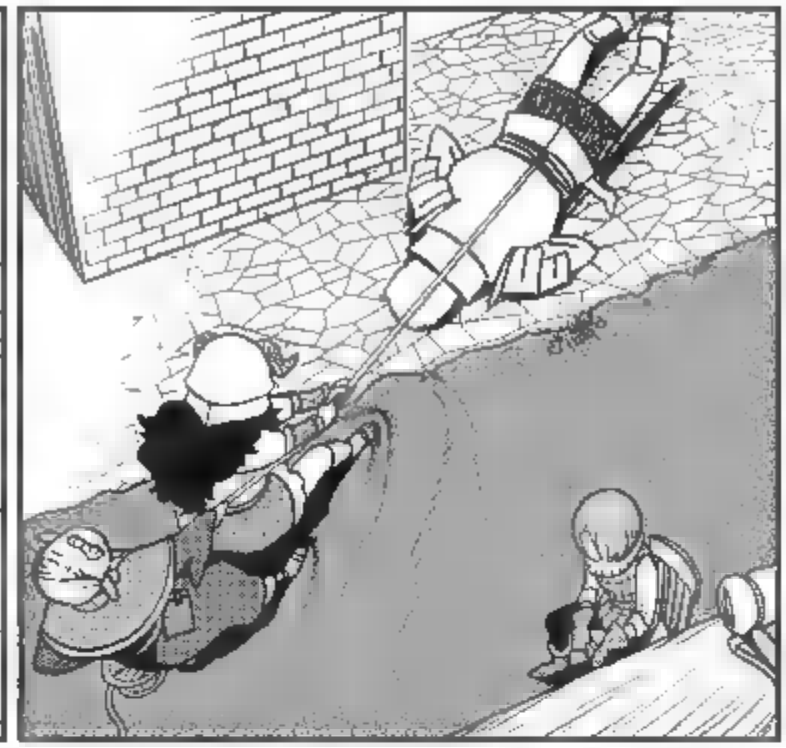
I'LL TAKE THESE BACK WITH ME AND EAT WHERE IT'S LESS CHAOTIC.




WHOA!

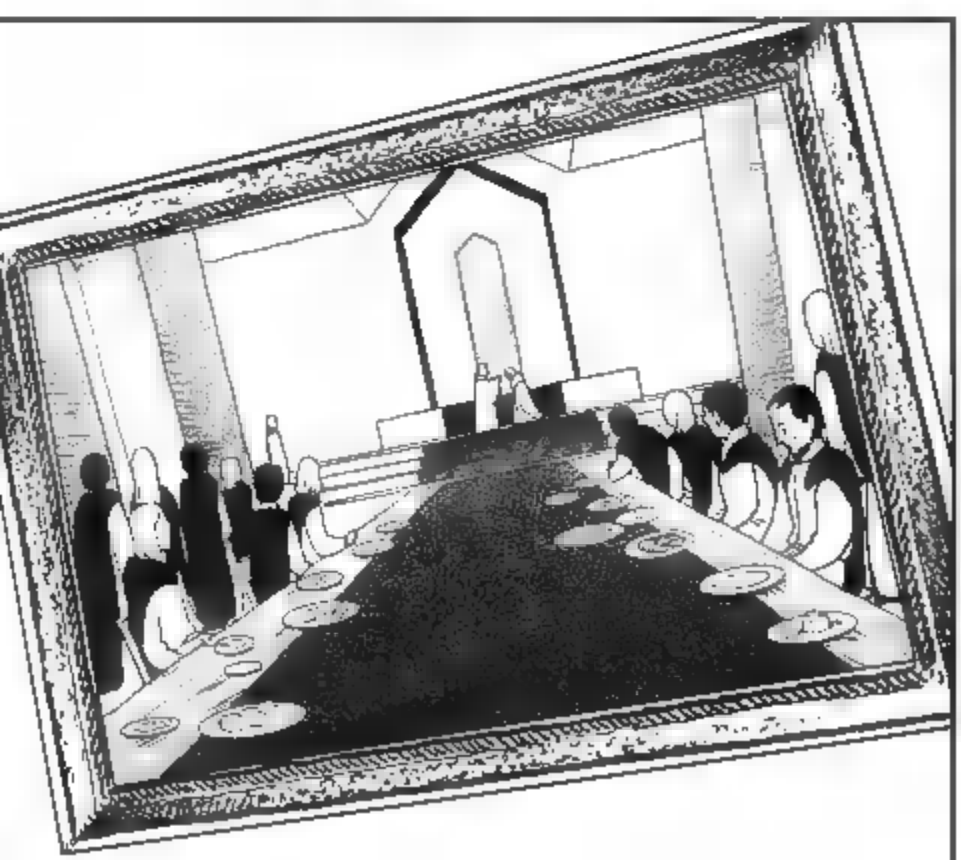
THAT ELF WAS IN THE OTHER PICTURE TOO.
IS SHE A JESTER OR SOME-THING?

LOOK! YOU SEE!?
THIS TIME, I BROUGHT FOOD BACK WITH—

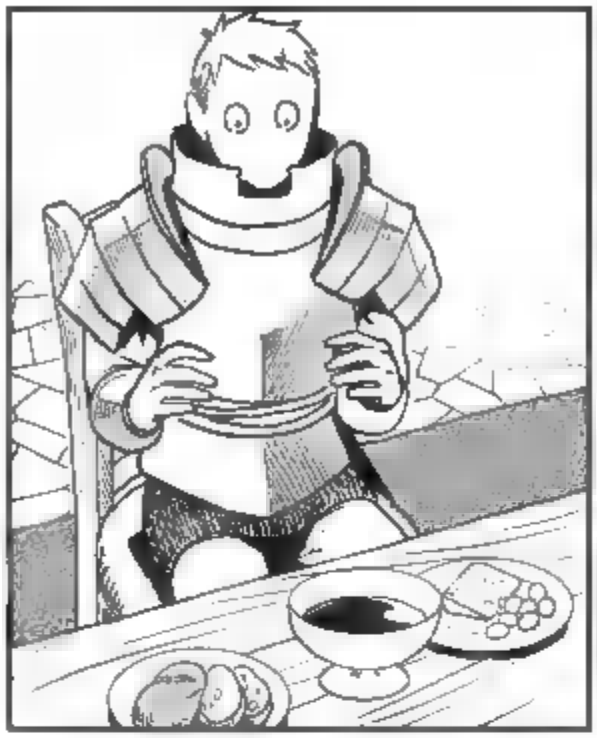


YOU CAN'T TAKE IT OUT OF THE PICTURE...
YOU HAVE TO EAT WHEN YOU'RE INSIDE.

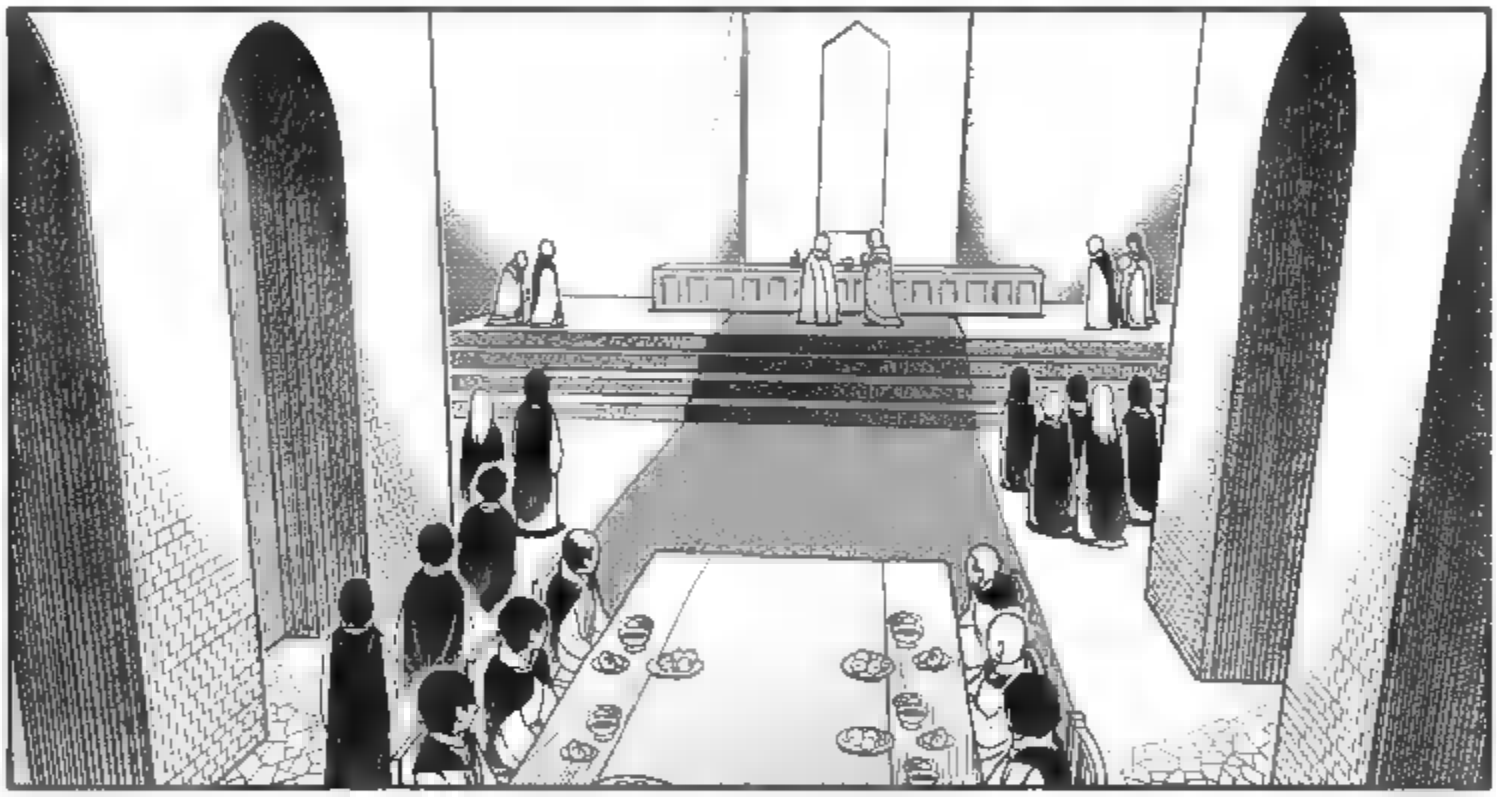
THERE'S NOTHING...
UH... HUH?

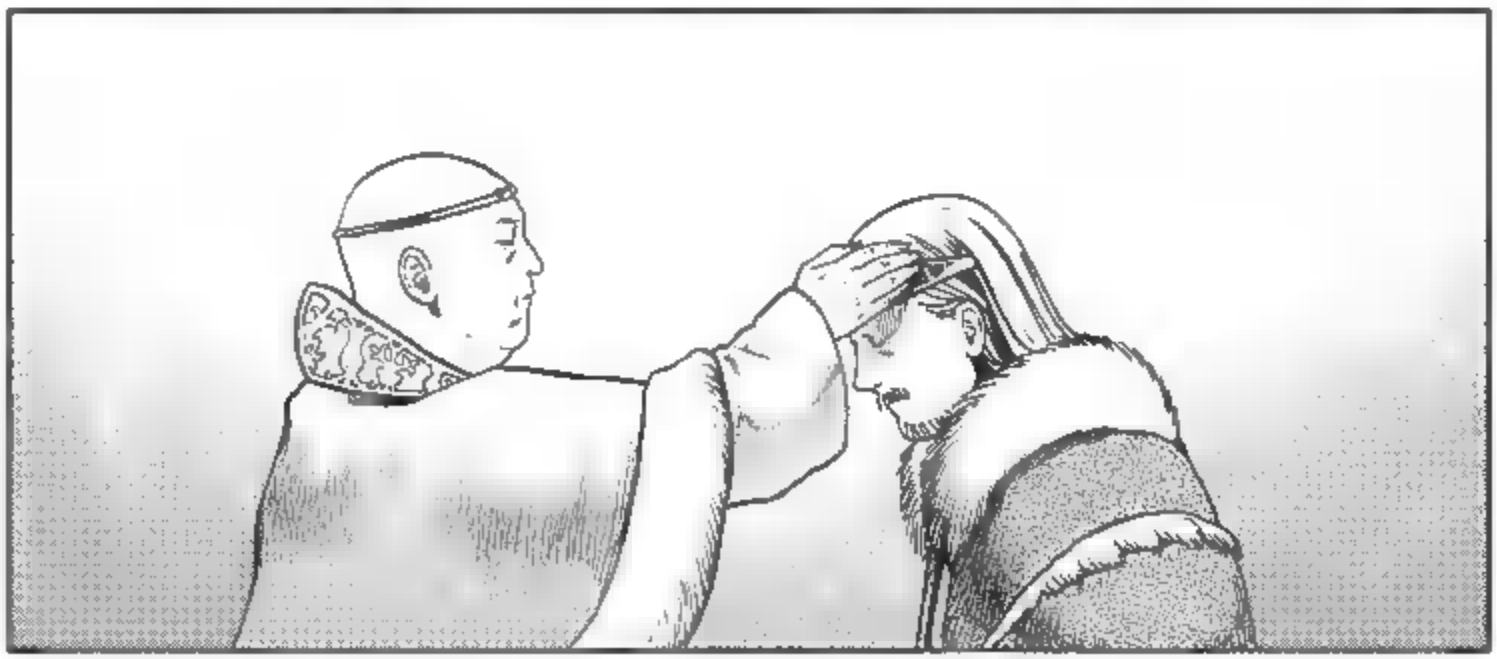


I ABSOLUTELY HAVE TO KNOW WHAT IT TASTES LIKE NOW!
NEXT ONE!



DOSU
(WHUMP)
ドスッ





THIS IS... A CORO-NATION?
DID THAT PRINCE INHERIT THE CROWN?

GUBI (GULP)

WITH PRAYERS THAT THIS COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE WILL PROSPER FOR ETERNITY...

IT'S GOOD.

CHIBI (SIP)

GUBI
GUBI

KUN (SNIFF)

Pumpkin Soup
Edamame & Whitefish Sauté
Court Cuisine
Full-Course Meal
Fruit
Roast Duck
Golden Wheat Bread
Golden Cow Cheese
YUM...!!
JIIIN (SWOOND)
PAKU (MUNCH)
JYUWA (JUICY)
HOT! HOT!
OH. SECONDS, PLEASE.
PAKU
PAKU
GATSU (CHOMP)
GATSU
MUSHA (RIP)
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT TASTE LIKE PAINT...
...BUT THIS IS A REAL FEAST.

BOY, DID I EAT.
I'M FULL.
WHEW...
URP!

URK!

WELL, I GUESS I'LL HEAD BACK.

SU (SHUF)

WAIT, THIS GIRL IS...

YOU...
...ARE NOT OF THE CASTLE, ARE YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
YOU WERE AT THE PRINCE'S BIRTH AND AT HIS WEDDING.
ZO (SHUDDER)
UH-OH.
I'LL TURN YOU TO CINDERS.
JI (SIZZL)
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
H-HURRY ...
ARE YOU AFTER THE THRONE?
AH!
GOO (BOOM)

AAAAGH

BO (BLAZE)

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

IN THE PICTURE?

PHEW...

THE PICTURE JUST...!

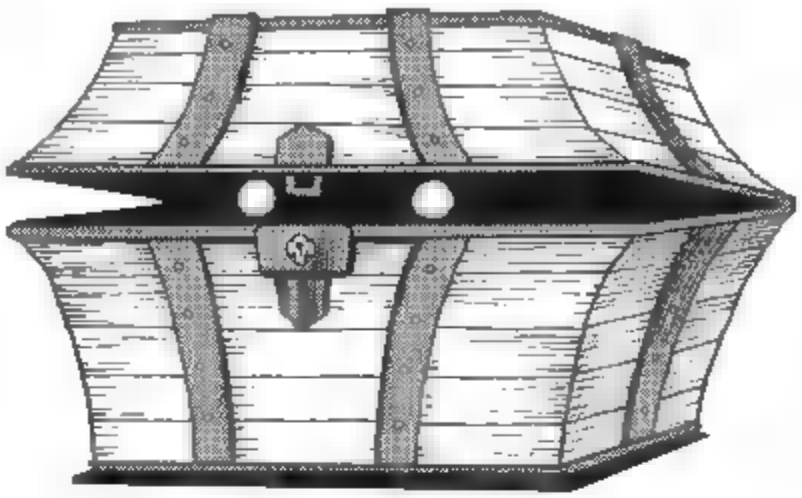
BA CLURCHO

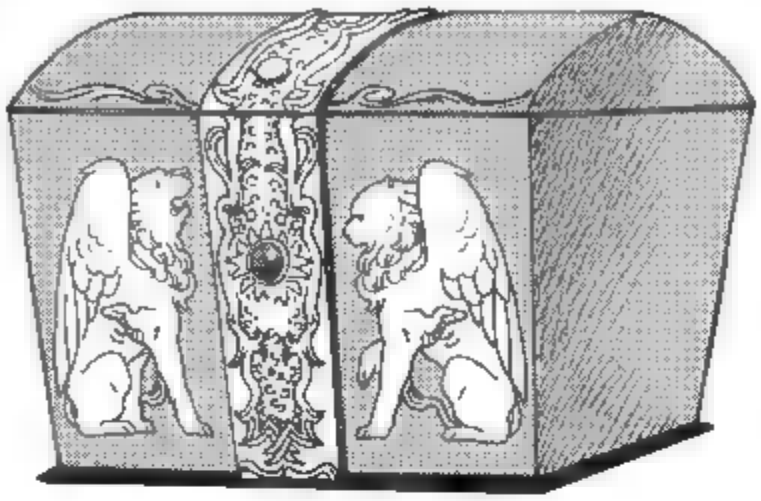
PETA (PAT)

PETA

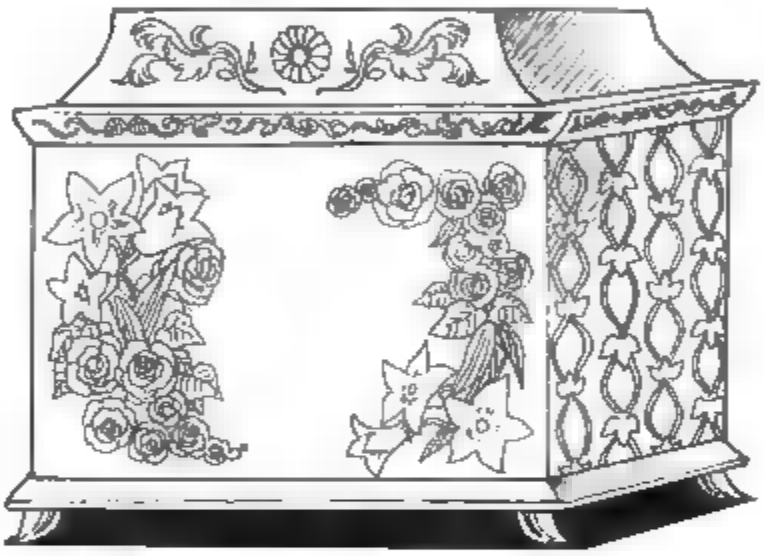
SFX: GURURURURU (GRUMBLE)

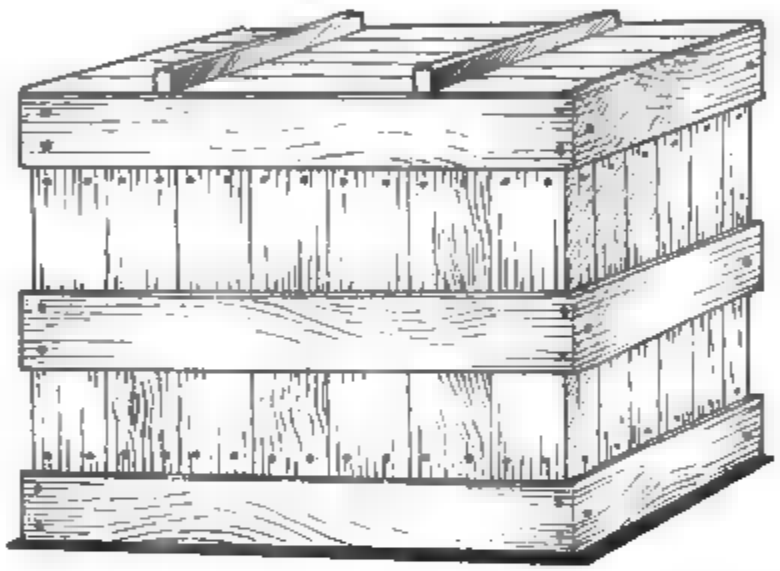
CHAPTER 12: THE END

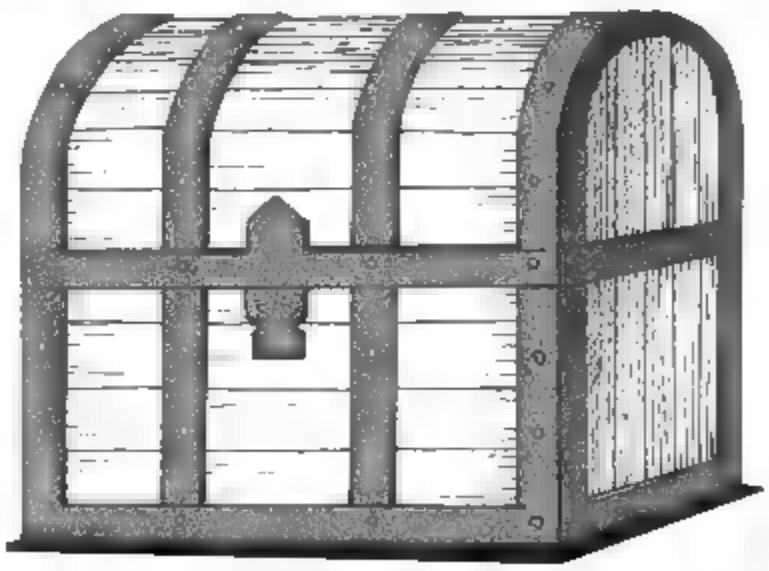


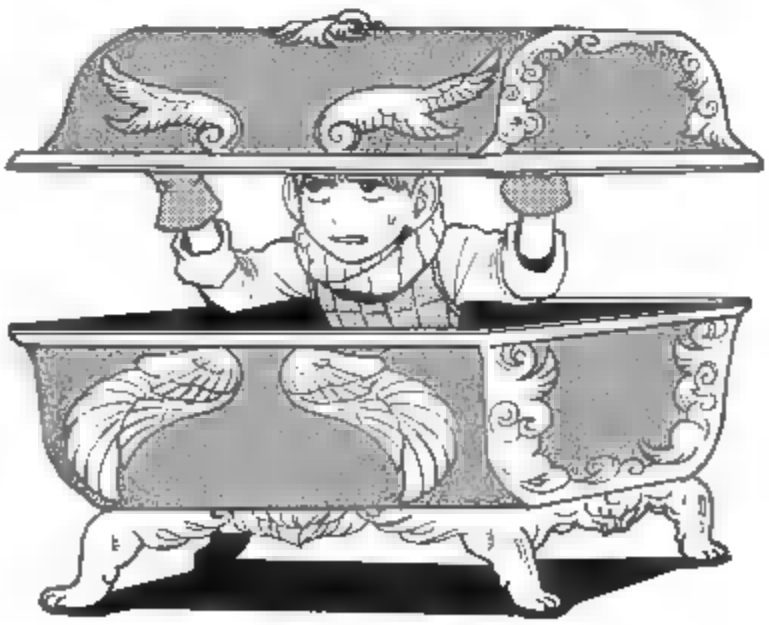


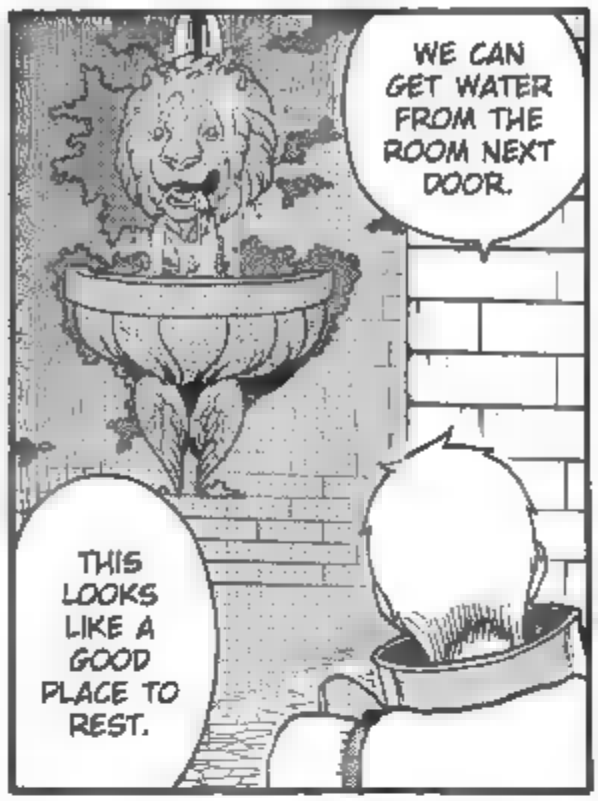
13. Boiled in Salt Water

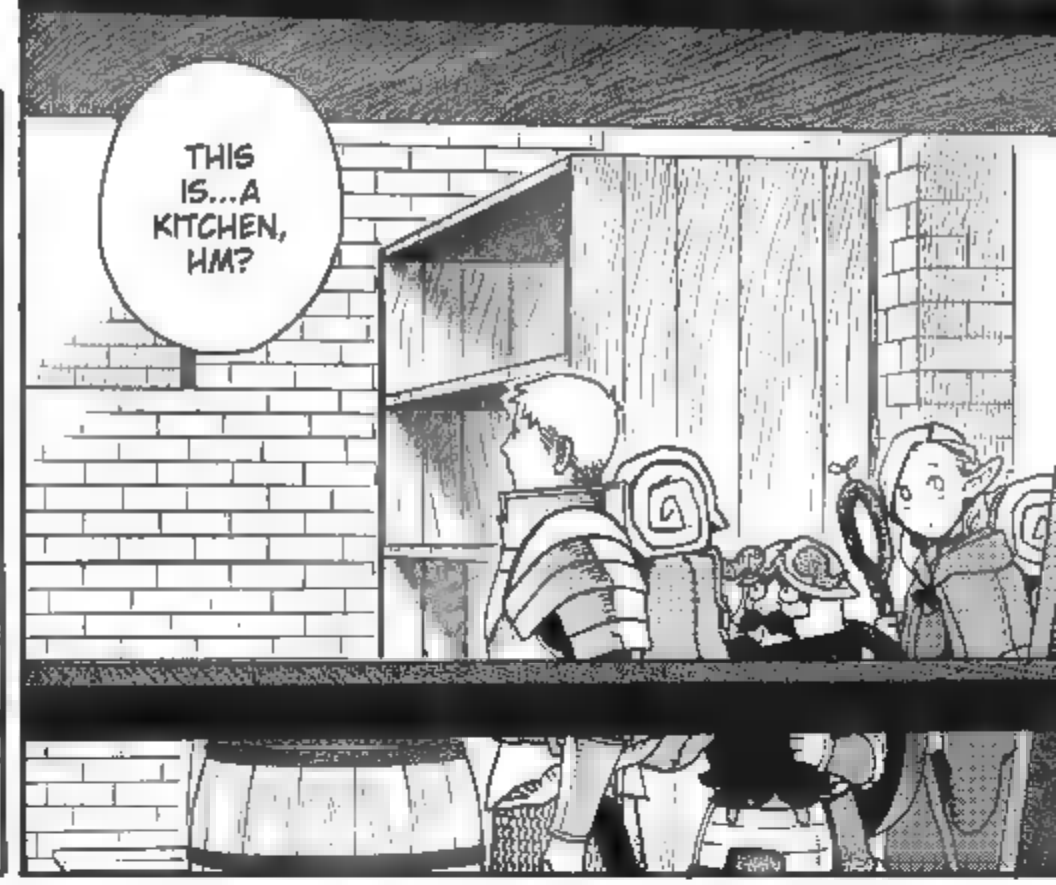




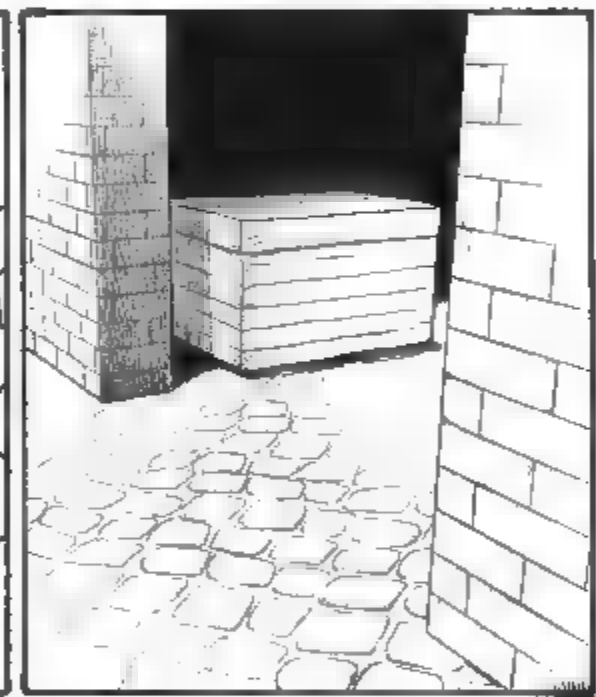





WE CAN GET WATER FROM THE ROOM NEXT DOOR.
THIS LOOKS LIKE A GOOD PLACE TO REST.

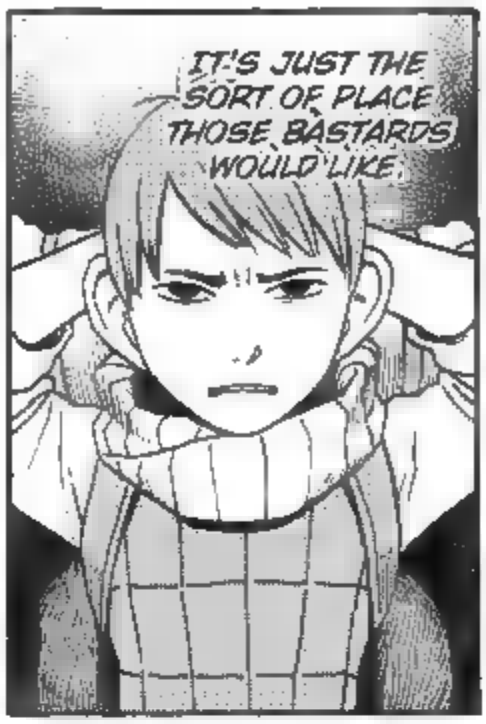

THIS IS...A KITCHEN, HM?

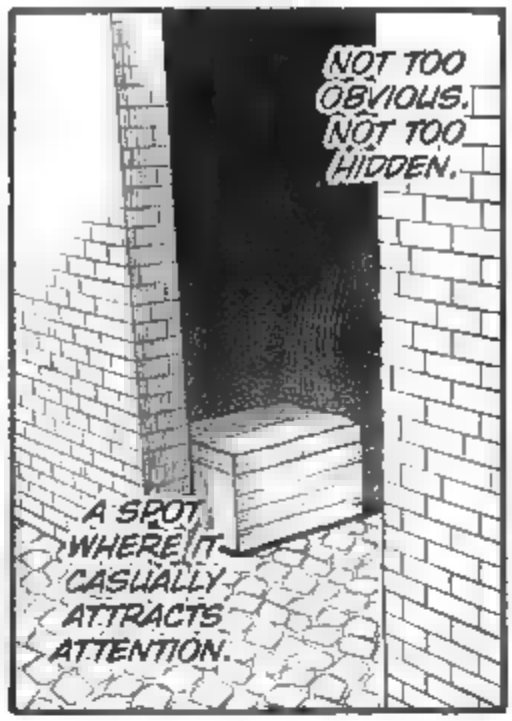
.....
HM?

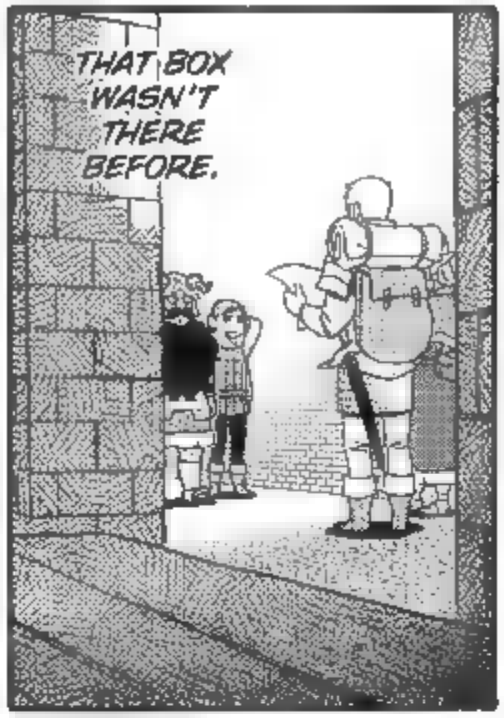


WE'D BE ON THE FOURTH FLOOR BY NOW IF YOU HADN'T PLAYED WITH THE PICTURES.
SHUN (CROOP)

ISN'T THAT...
...A MIMIC?


IT'S JUST THE SORT OF PLACE THOSE BASTARDS WOULD LIKE.


NOT TOO OBVIOUS. NOT TOO HIDDEN.
A SPOT WHERE IT CASUALLY ATTRACTS ATTENTION.


THAT BOX WASN'T THERE BEFORE.

OKAAAY.

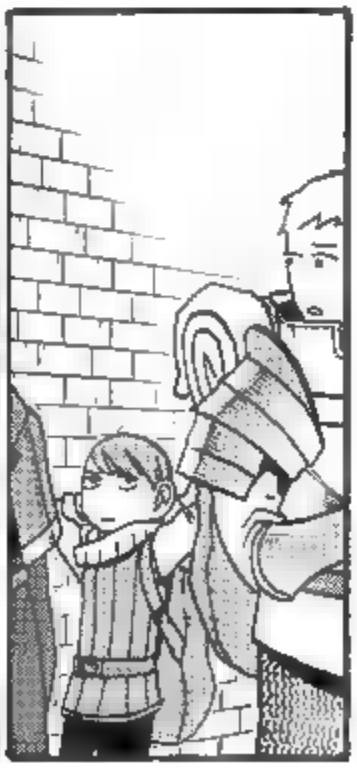
LET'S SLEEP HERE TODAY.

IS THAT ALL RIGHT, CHIL-CHUCK?
HM? YEAH...

M-M-C-S!
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE THOSE THINGS PUT ME THROUGH HELL!?

SENSHI AND LAIOS OBVIOUSLY WOULD WANT TO EAT IT...
...AND THEN OPENING THE BOX WOULD BE MY JOB.
WHY DID YOU TELL THEM?
YES!

I GUESS I WON'T MENTION IT.



CHILCHUCK, JUST STARTING OUT

GREAT! NO TRAPS, AND IT'S NOT LOCKED!

PAKA (POP)

DOSU (SHUNK)

THIS ONE WAS LOCKED, SO IT'S NOT A MIMIC.

PAKA

GUN (YANK)

AHI

GATA

GATA

GATA (CLATTER)

AAAAAH!

AAAAAH!

OH CRUD! I FORGOT TO CHECK FOR TRAPS—

SHUUU (HISSS)

HEE HEE HEE!

IT CAN'T DO ANYTHING IF I OPEN IT FROM BEHIND.

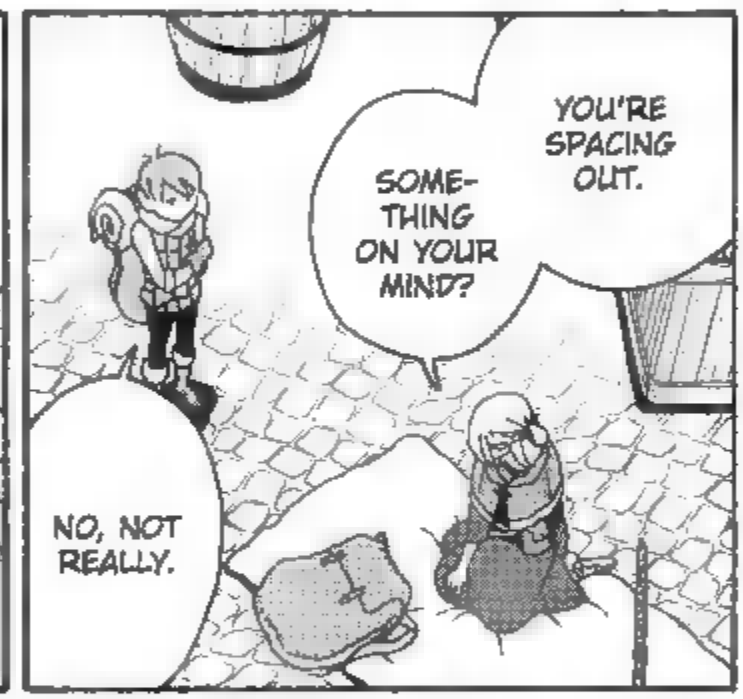
DAMN MIMICS ...

THAT ONE WASN'T EVEN ME.

ARE YOU OKAY?
HUH?

.....

I BET HE'S TIRED. HE'S STILL A KID.
DON'T PUT HIM ON WATCH TONIGHT. JUST LET HIM SLEEP.
I TOLD YOU, I'M NOT A KID.


YOU'RE SPACING OUT.
SOME-THING ON YOUR MIND?
NO, NOT REALLY.

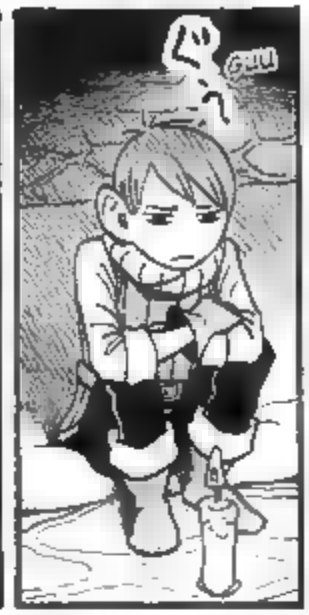
THAT'S GOING TO BITE YOU IN THE REAR SOMEDAY.
YEAH, YEAH.

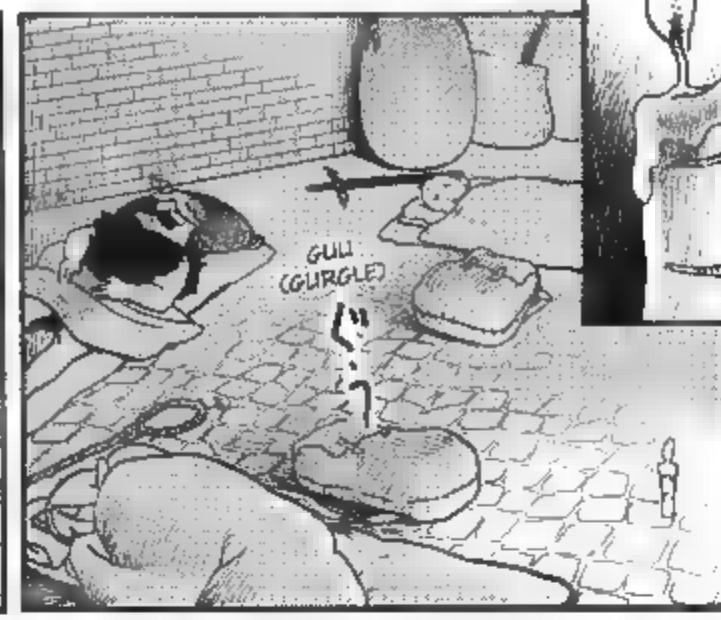
HE WON'T TELL US HIS BIRTHDAY OR WHERE HE'S FROM EITHER.
THERE! HE GOES AGAIN.
YOU'RE ALWAYS LIKE THAT, CHIL-CHUCK.
I LIKE TO KEEP MY WORK AND PRIVATE LIVES SEPA-RATE.

THEN HOW OLD ARE YOU?

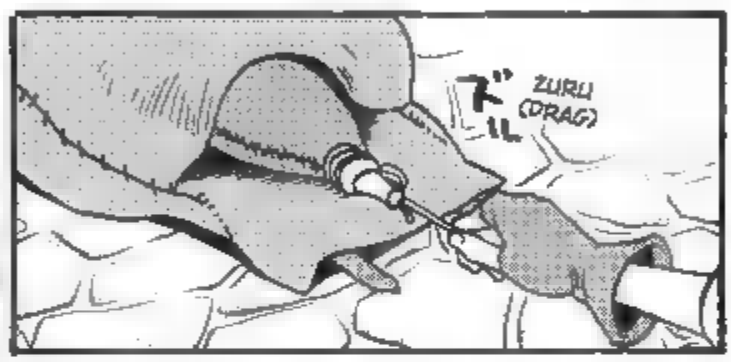
I DON'T WANT TO SAY.

WATER...
I'M GETTING WORSE AT GOING HUNGRY.
I USED TO BE FINE WITH NOT EATING FOR TWO DAYS.


GULL


GULL (GURGLE)

GUESS I'LL GO FILL IT UP NEXT DOOR.
HEY, DIMWIT.


ZURU (DRAG)

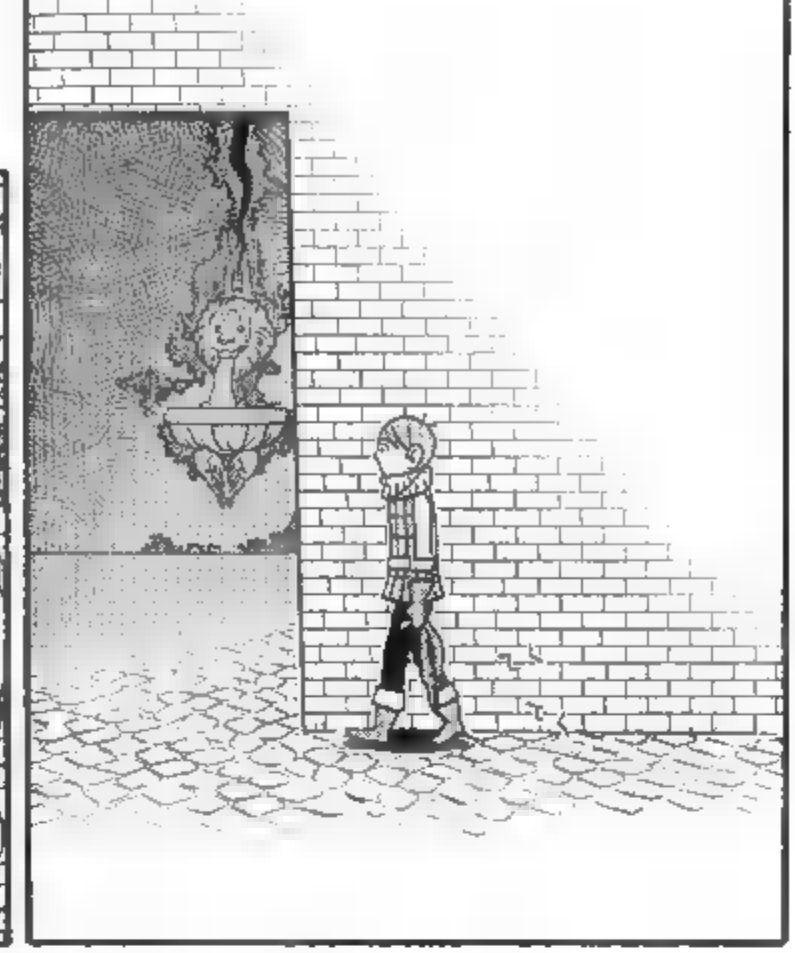
KARA (EMPTY)

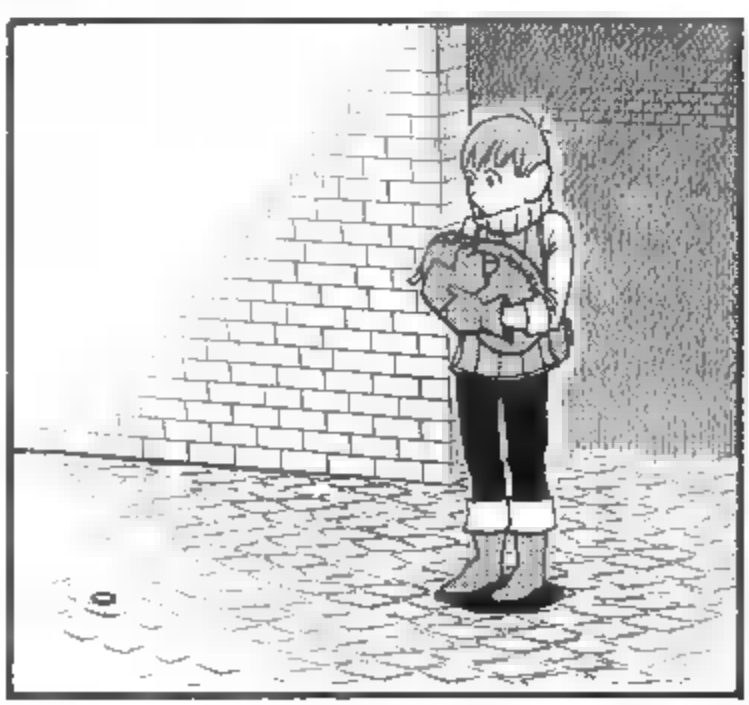
S'DAN-GER-OUS...
MMH...
MMH...
IT'S RIGHT NEXT DOOR.

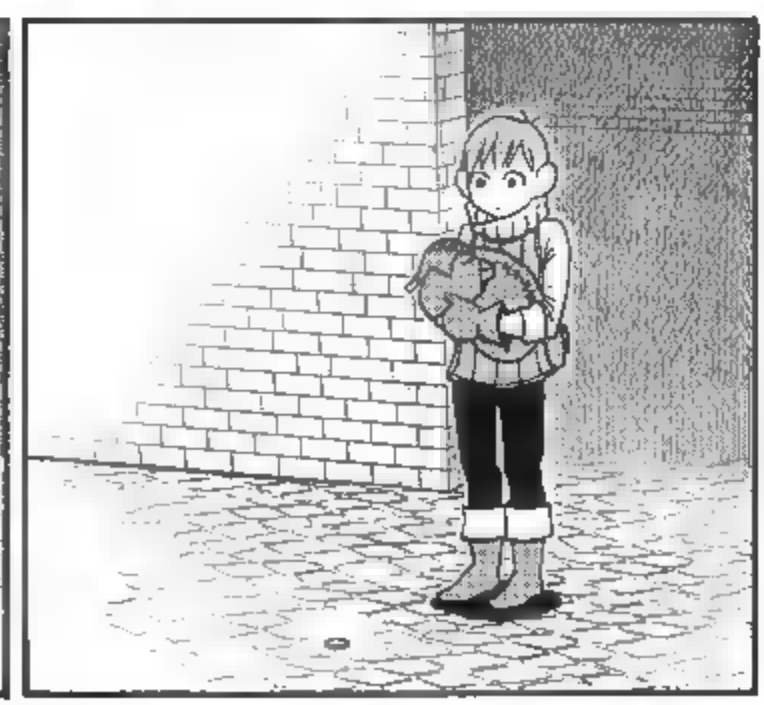
NN... I GO WIF...
NO NEED. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

GUH?
I'M GOING TO GET SOME WATER.

GOPOT
(GLUB)
ゴポ

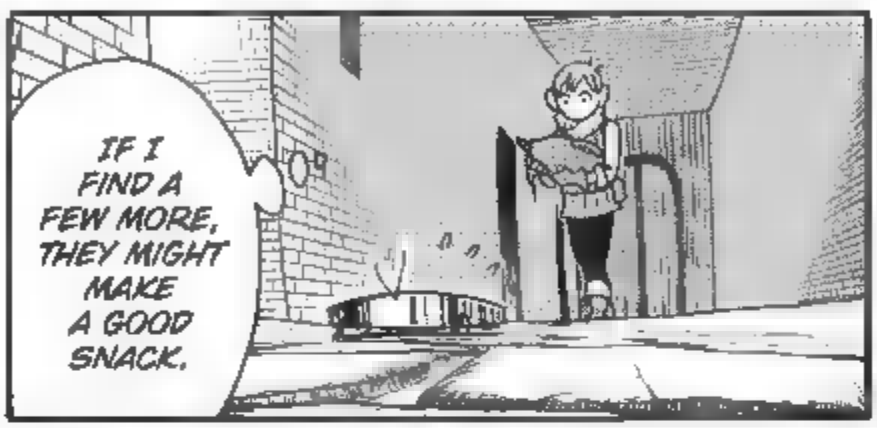


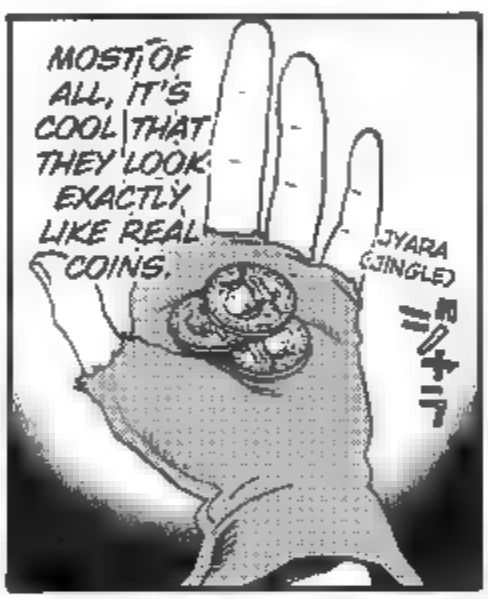




MAYBE THERE'S A NEST AROUND HERE.

IT'S A COIN BUG.


IF I FIND A FEW MORE, THEY MIGHT MAKE A GOOD SNACK.


MOST OF ALL, IT'S COOL THAT THEY LOOK EXACTLY LIKE REAL COINS.
JYARA (JINGLE)

OW.
BACHI (WHAP)
THEY'RE NOT AS DANGER-OUS AS OTHER TREASURE INSECTS.

I'M NOT LAIOS, BUT I DO KINDA LIKE COIN BUGS.
THEY USE CAMOUFLAGE LIKE MIMICS, BUT THEY'RE CUTE.

GAKO (CLUNK)

HOLD IT, THAT'S WHERE THE MIMIC—

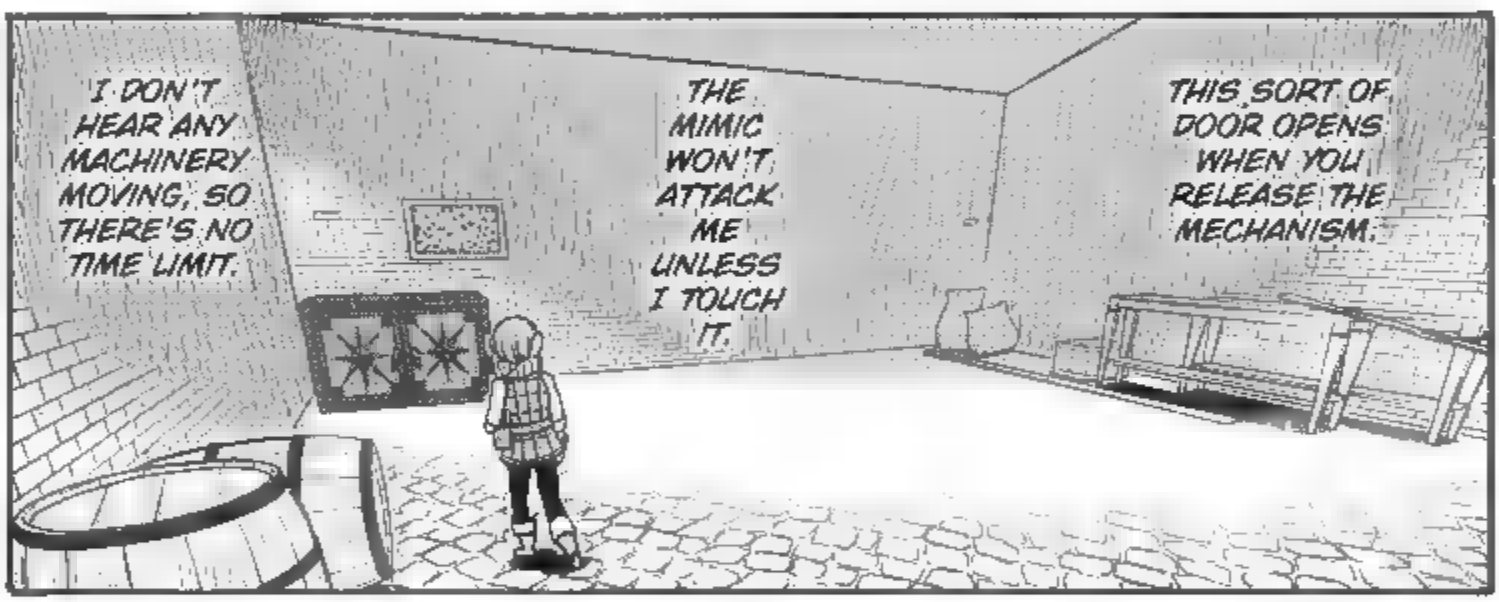
SU (SWISH)

HEY!

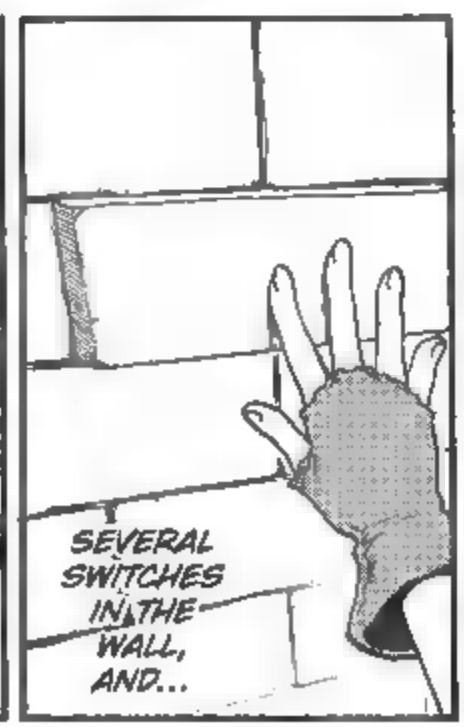
YOU...
ガーン
ギャルギャルギャルギャル
GYARU (SKREEK)
GYARU
GYARU
GAAN (CLAAANG)
GYA
THE DEVICE TO OPEN IT MUST BE CLOSE...
...BUT NOT WITHIN REACH, I GUESS.
DID YOU SERIOUSLY FORGET THE BAG MADE YOU HEAVIER!?
...COMPLETE IDIOT.
MAYBE !?
ZZZ...
NO, PROBABLY NOT. I CAN'T COUNT ON THAT.
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
MARCILLE WILL NOTICE IF I DON'T COME BACK.
SHOULD I CALL FOR HELP?
NO, IT MIGHT DRAW MORE MONSTERS. I'D PUT THE OTHERS IN DANGER.

THIS IS YOUR JOB, REMEMBER!?
DON'T PANIC!
OPENING CLOSED DOORS!
?

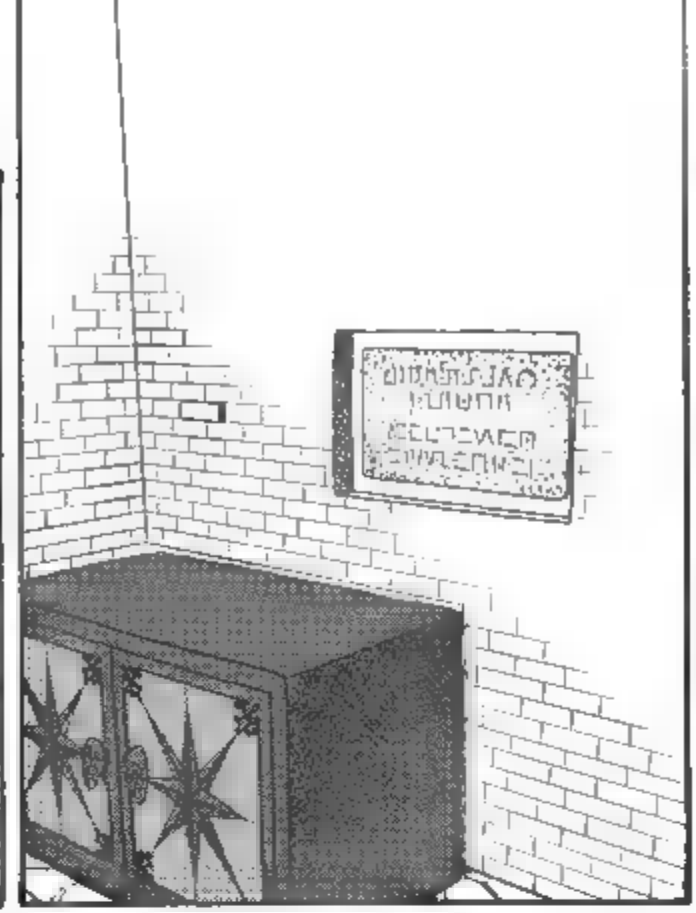
Hoooh...


I DON'T HEAR ANY MACHINERY MOVING, SO THERE'S NO TIME LIMIT.
THE MIMIC WON'T ATTACK ME UNLESS I TOUCH IT.
THIS SORT OF DOOR OPENS WHEN YOU RELEASE THE MECHANISM.

...A DEVICE THAT PROBABLY THROWS SPEARS.
DO THEY LAUNCH IF YOU PUSH THE SWITCHES OUT OF ORDER?
ズリ
ZURI (SCRAPE)


SEVERAL SWITCHES IN THE WALL, AND...

THE TEXT ON THIS PLAQUE MUST BE THE KEY...



CHIRA (GLANCE)
AND THEN...

PLAQUE
BUTTONS
MIMIC
NO IDEA. LET'S REVIEW.
THERE ARE THREE SWITCHES IN THE CORNERS OF THE ROOM.
I HAVE TO PRESS THEM IN A CERTAIN ORDER.
WHY THREE?

STILL, I THINK I'VE SEEN THAT BEFORE...
...?

THE ANCIENT TONGUE!? C'MON, I CAN'T READ THAT!
DAMN IT! IF MARCILLE WERE HERE...

GRRR!
THERE'S A SWITCH BEHIND THE MIMIC TOO!
DAMN IT! MUST YOU ALWAYS GET IN MY WAY!?

HOLD IT.

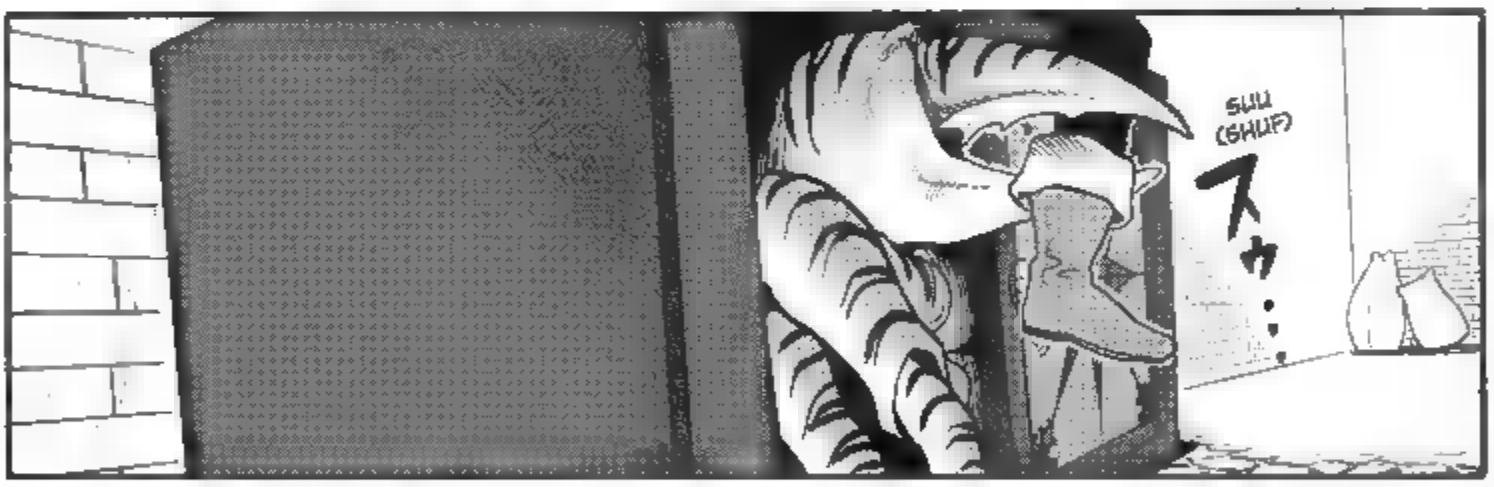
IF I PRESS THEM AT RANDOM, I'LL GET SKEW-ERED.
WITH MY BUILD, COULD I SLIP BETWEEN...? NO, THAT WOULD BE RISKY.

MAYBE THERE'S SOME SORT OF HINT IN THE ROOM?
NO, I GUESS IT WOULDN'T BE THAT EASY.

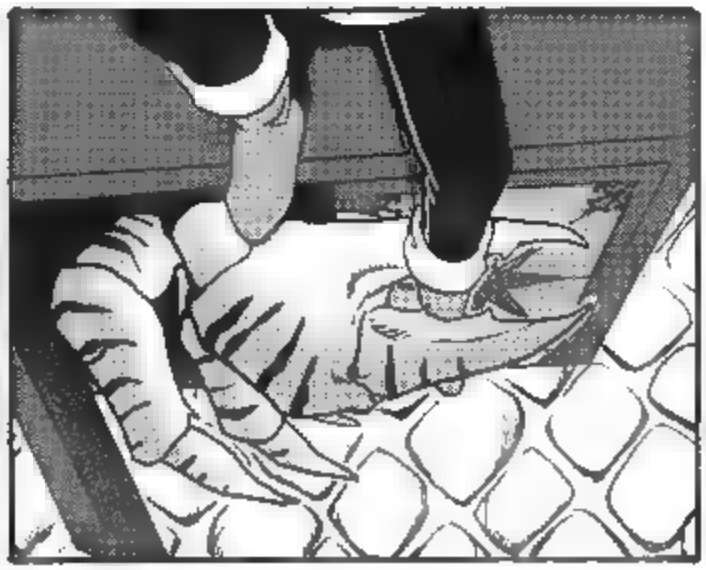
MAYBE I SHOULD JUST SIT TIGHT UNTIL MORNING.
HAH...

ARGH! I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT TO DO.
DOSU (WHUMP?)

UMM...
HM...


SUU (SHUF)
スゥ…

IN



…

ゴッ
GO (THUD)
カチリ
KACHIRI (CLICK)
JOGI (CHONK)
IN THIS ONE !?
OH N—
ZUDO (SHUNK)
ドスッ

S-
SAVED...
OWW...

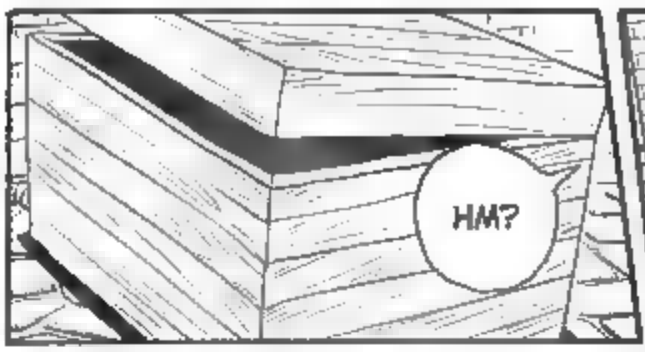
BESHA
(SPLAT)
GWEH!

SUSUSU
(SHFFFF)
SUTON
(THUNK)

GEEZ, YOU'RE TOUGH !!
GAZA
(SKITTER)
ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA
LAIOS'S STUPID TRIVIA IS FLASHING THROUGH MY HEAD.
HEH HEH HEH...
TIP THEM OVER, AND YOU CAN TELL WHETHER THEY'RE MALE OR FEMALE.
IF YOU TIP MIMICS OVER, THEY KICK THEIR LEGS. IT'S CUTE.

DO DO
DO
DO
DO (THOOM)
TIP IT OVER!?
THAT THING!? I CAN'T!
DO (WHAK)
カチリ
KACHIRI (CLICK)
I'LL RISK IT!
AGH! FINE!
BAN (BAM)
KA (GLIND)

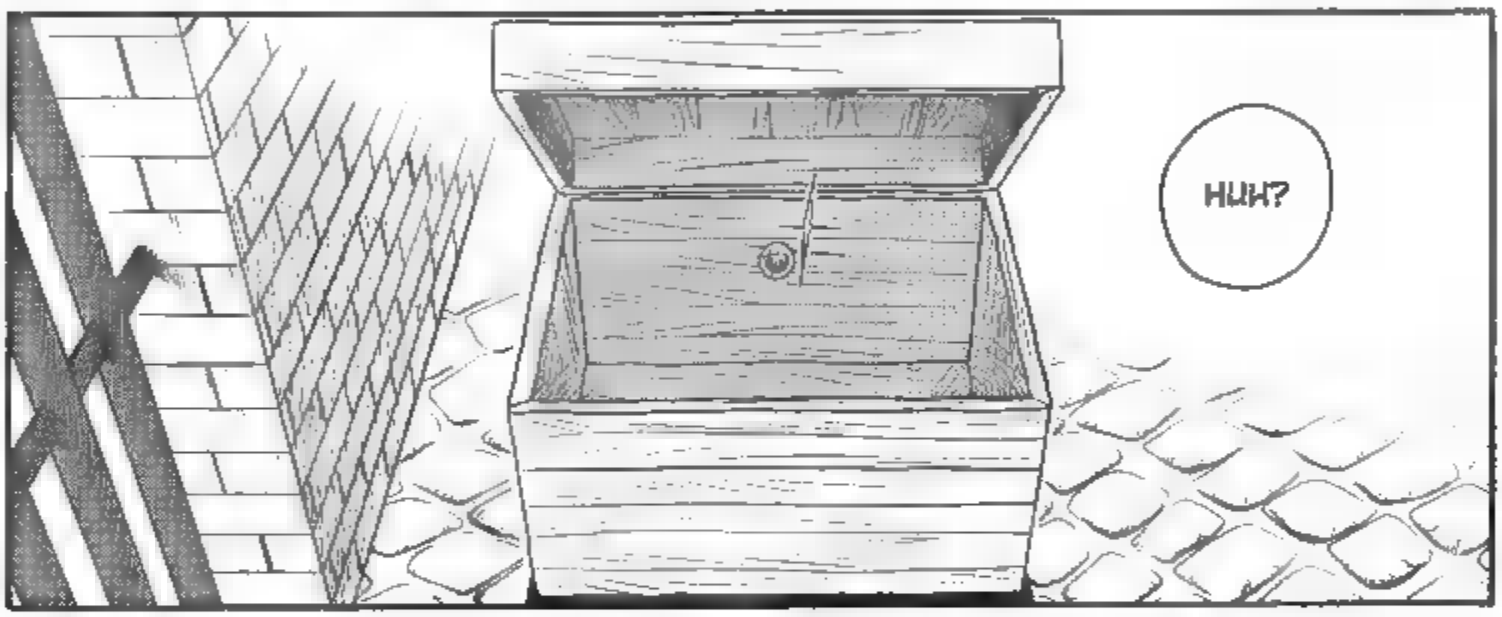
GARIRI (SCRAPE)
OW!
HAAAH...
HAAH...
バタン
BATAN (SLAM)
ZUDON (BOOM)
ズドーン


HM?

DOKI
(BADMP)

YORO
(TOTTER)
OWWW...
MAYBE SOMEONE HEARD THAT AND WILL COME TO HELP.

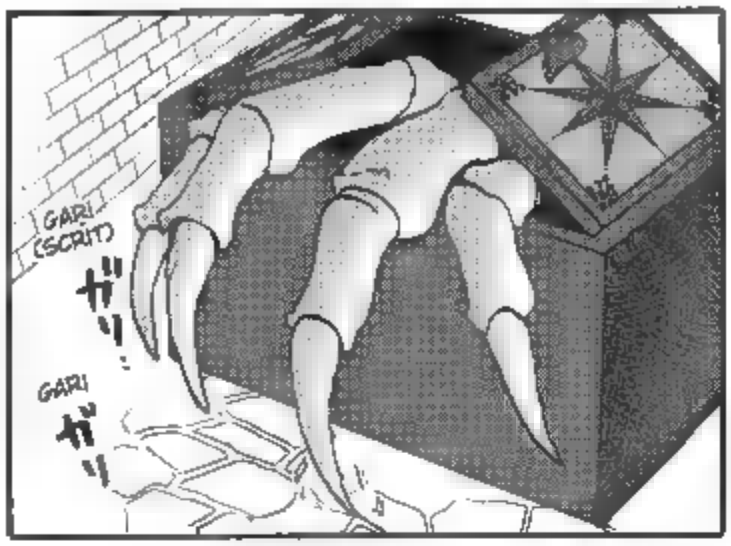
DAMN IT, DON'T MESS WITH ME...
BAKAN
(CLUNK)
WHAT, THIS ONE'S EMPTY !?

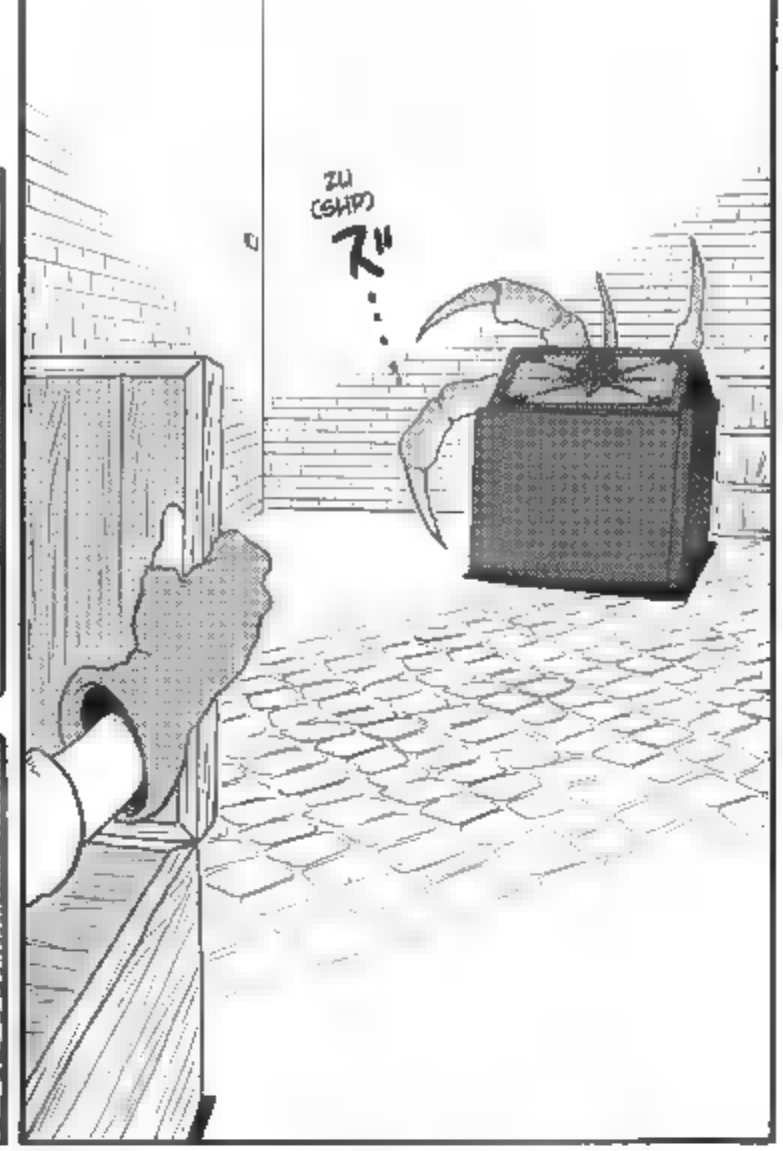

HUH?

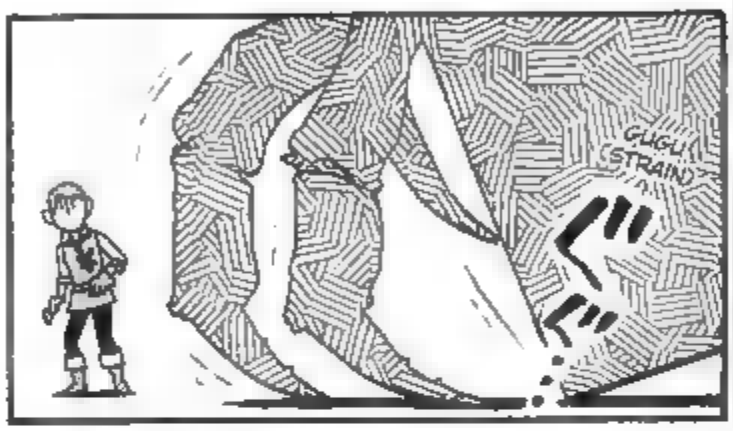
THIS IS IT! THE WORDS ON THE PLAQUE!
IN THAT CASE, I KNOW WHAT IT SAYS!

THESE LET-TERS...

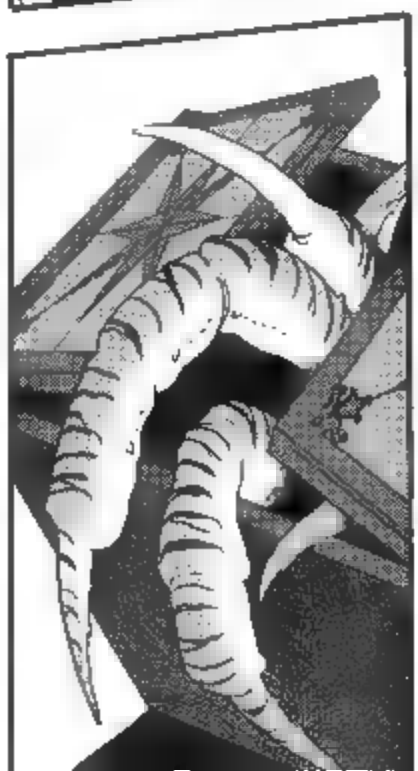
BA
(GRAB)


GARI (SCRIT)
ガリ
GARI
ガリ

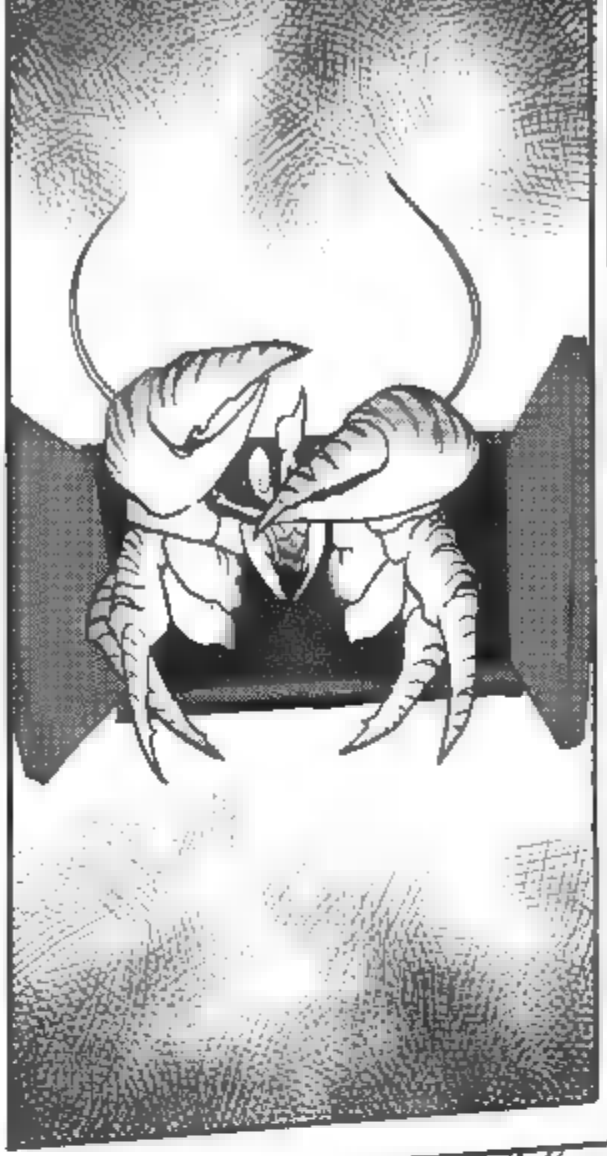

ZU (SHIP)
ズ


GUGU (STRAIN)
ぐぐ

"...OR THE MOON SETS..."
カチ
KACHI
WEST!
KACHI (CLICK)
カチ
EAST!
"NO MATTER HOW OFTEN THE SUN RISES...
HURRY!
PA (DASH)



NORTH!
KAKO (CLUNK)
カコ
"...LIKE THE FIXED STAR..."

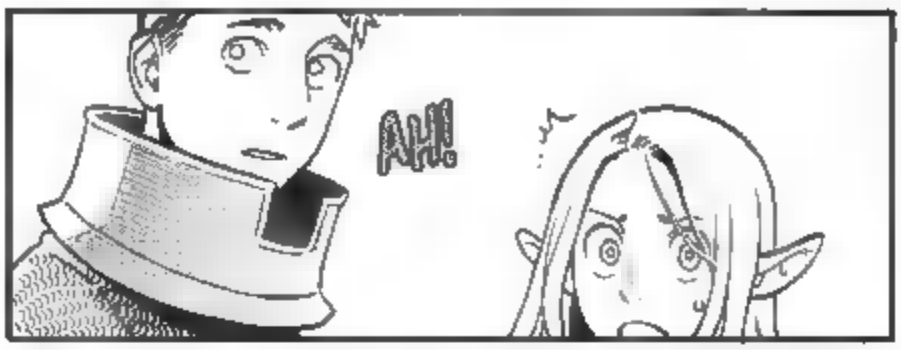


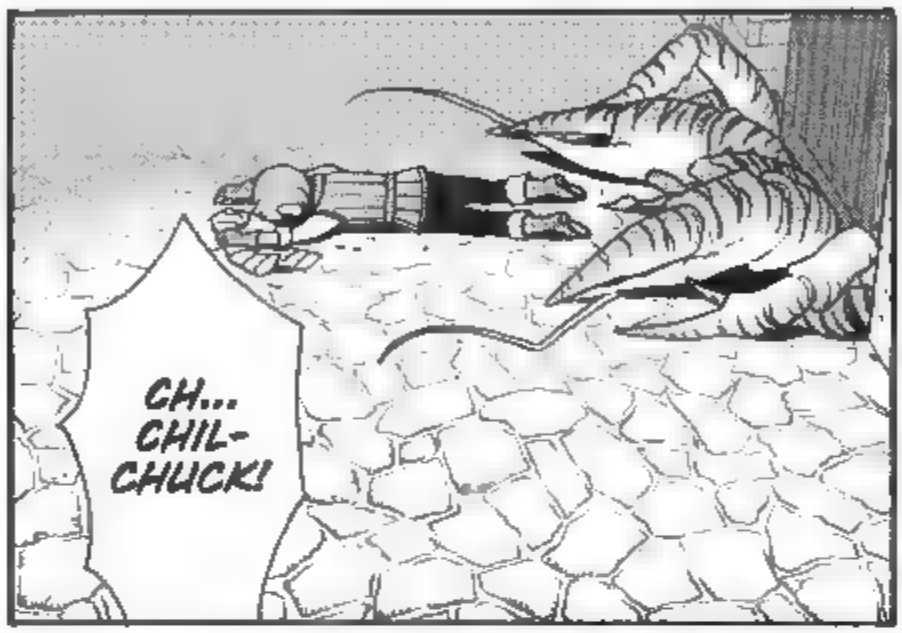
DON (WHUD)

SOUTH!
WAAAGH!
SOUTH!
"...MAY THE WINDS OF GOOD FORTUNE BE ETERNAL."
ZA (SKITTER)
ZA
ZA
ZA

KAKON (CLUNK)
SOUTH!

PYON (HOP)
ZA
YEEEEK!!
GOGO (RMBL)
IT'S OPEN!
ガコ
GAKO (CLUNK)

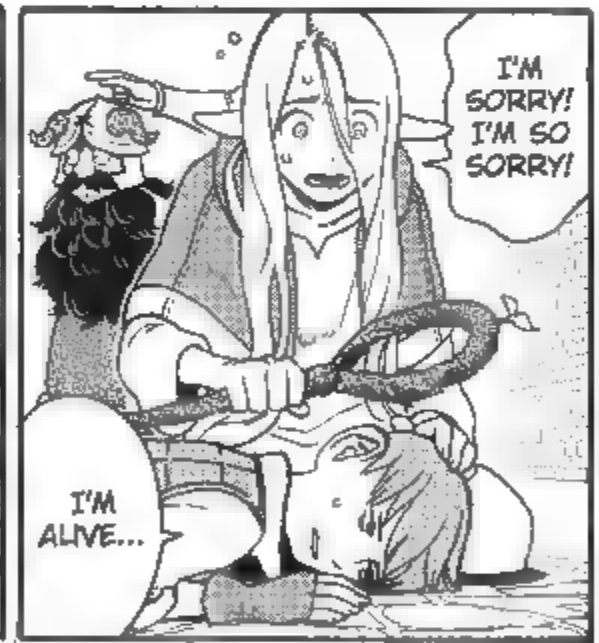

AH!


CH... CHIL-CHUCK!

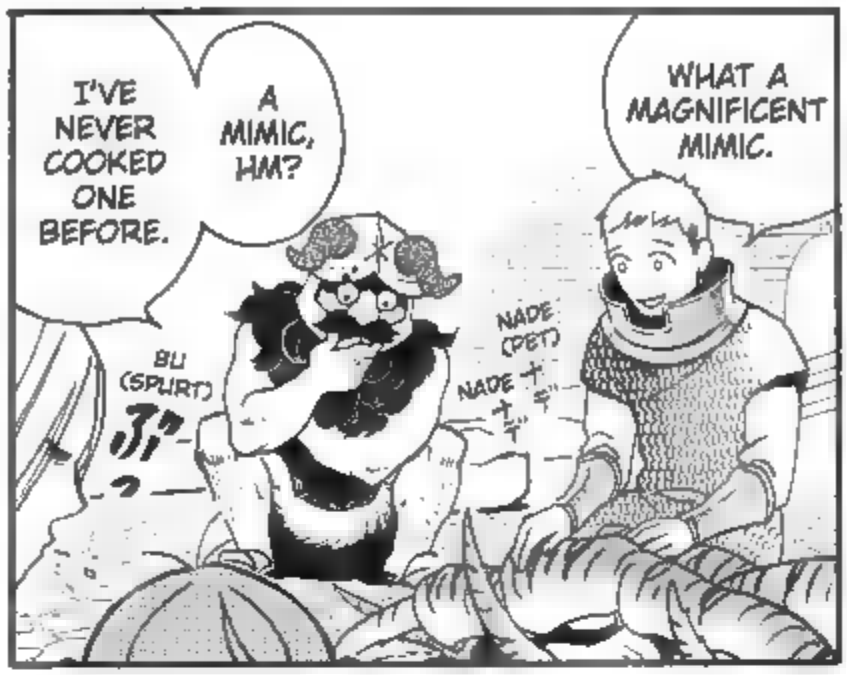
I TOLD YOU, CHILCHUCK HASN'T COME BACK!

CHIL-CHUCK, YOU DID THIS?
WELL DONE!

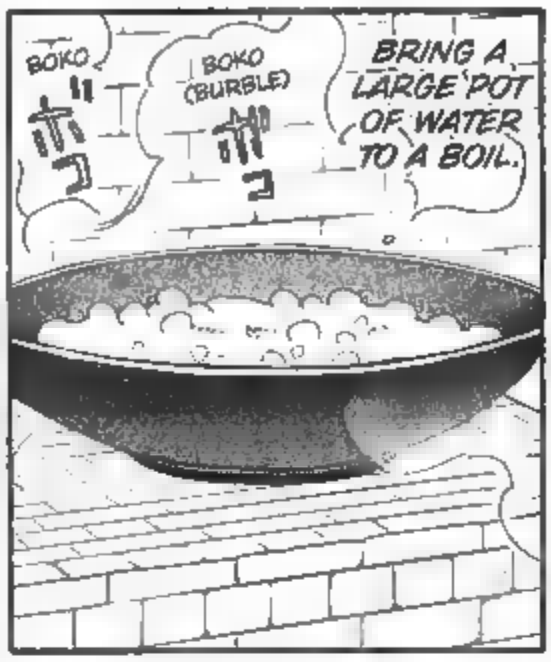
THIS IS...

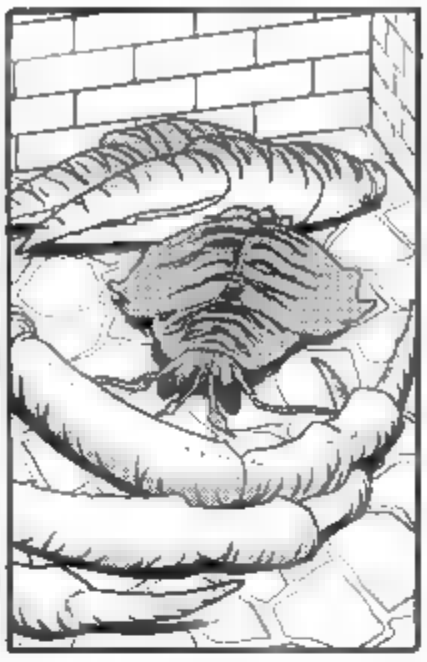

I'M SORRY! I'M SO SORRY!
I'M ALIVE...

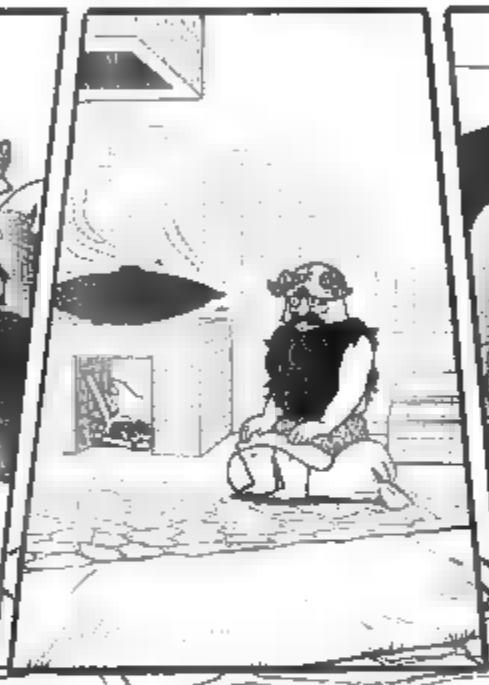
YOU'RE WELCOME.
OW, OW, OW.



SFX: CHIKU (STITCH) CHIKU





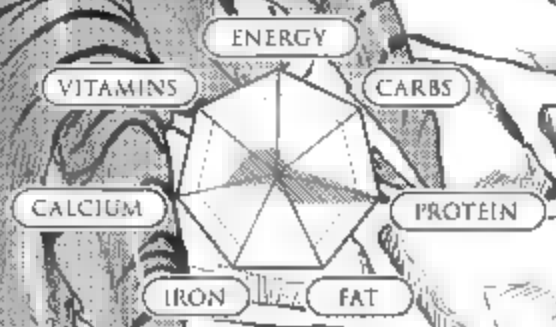


Boiled Mimic

IT'S DONE!

Ingredients (Serves 4)

Mimic (upper body)	1
Claws	1 pair
Legs	4
Salt	Lots



TRY USING THE HANDLE.
NO GOOD. IT PUSHES IT FARTHER IN.

RGH.
I CAN'T SCRAPE THE MEAT OUT.

HMM...

YOUR LOCK-PICKS!
ガ
GAAAN (SHOCK)

WHAT THINGS?
YOU KNOW. THE THINGS YOU ALWAYS CARRY AROUND.

AH-HA.
CHIL-CHUCK, LEND ME THOSE THINGS.

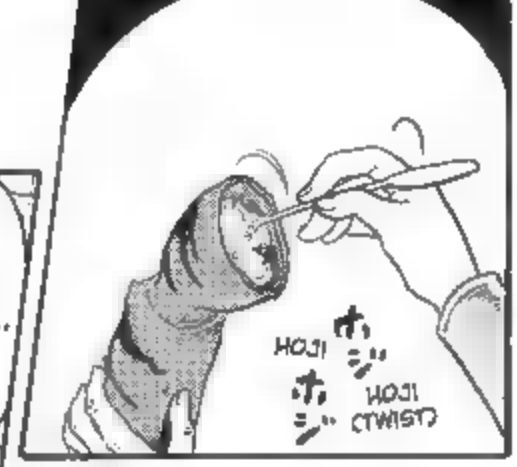
NO! STOP!

WE'LL STERILIZE THEM IN HOT WATER. IT'LL BE FINE.
THAT'S NOT THE PROB-LEM!

D—
DON'T BE AN IDIOT!!
NO!! ABSO-LUTELY NOT!! DON'T YOU DARE!!

PAKU (CHOMP)

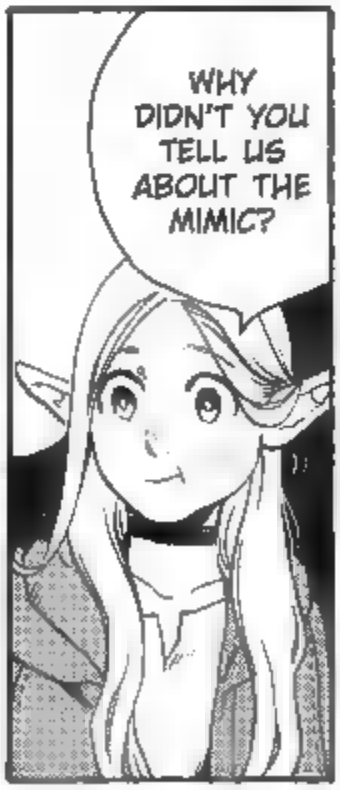
HERE, CHILCHUCK.


HOJI ホジ
ホジ HOJI (TWIST)

COMES OUT EASILY.

YEAH, THIS IS REALLY, REALLY GOOD.
IT'S SO SPRINGY.
THE MORE YOU CHEW IT, THE BETTER THE FLAVOR GETS.

IT TASTES FANTASTIC.
.....
PAN (CLAP)


WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US ABOUT THE MIMIC?

I HAVE HEARD THE MIDGUT GLAND ON HERMIT CRABS TASTES BAD.
...AND YOU'D BE WRONG.

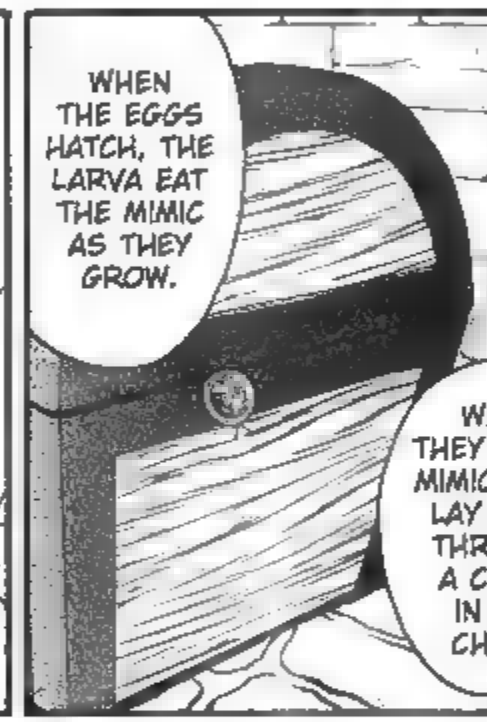
I BET IF YOU ATE THE BODY AND LEG MEAT TOGETHER, IT WOULD BE GOOD.

MIMICS DON'T EAT TREA-SURE INSECTS.
HUH?

ANYWAY, MY JUDG-MENT'S GOTTEN DULL.
I THOUGHT IT WAS GOING TO EAT A TREASURE INSECT, AND I PANICKED.

I'VE HAD ZERO GOOD EXPERIENCES WITH MIMICS.
I'D RATHER JUST NOT MESS WITH THEM.

WHEN THEY'RE ADULTS, PEOPLE MISTAKE THEM FOR TREASURE ...
...AND THEY DEPART FOR NEW LANDS THAT WAY.


WHEN THE EGGS HATCH, THE LARVA EAT THE MIMIC AS THEY GROW.
WHEN THEY FIND A MIMIC, THEY LAY EGGS THROUGH A CRACK IN THE CHEST.

IT'S THE OPPOSITE— TREASURE INSECTS EAT MIMICS.

AND KEEPING SECRETS FROM US LED TO TROUBLE, DIDN'T IT?
TELL ME HOW OLD YOU ARE.
RGH...

I TOLD YOU, KNOCK IT OFF!
WELL, YOU WON'T TELL ME HOW OLD YOU ARE.
BASH! (SMACK)

THERE, THERE.
ARGH. SERI-OUSLY?
POOR THING. THAT MUST'VE BEEN REALLY SCARY.

THIS YEAR, I'M TWENTY-NINE.

THI...

"THI"!?

CHAPTER 13: THE END

Translation Notes

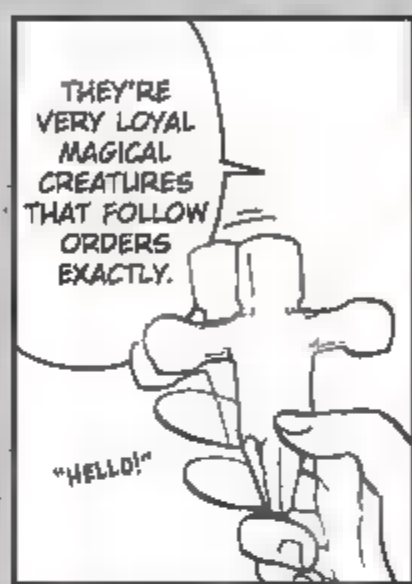
Page 16
The golems' [redacted] in Japanese—Tarou, Jirou, and Saburou—are very generic names for a family's first, second, and third sons, respectively. *Rou* is a common suffix for male [redacted] while *ta* means "thick" or "big," *ji* means "next" or "second," and *sabu* means "third."

Page 78
Laios names his sword Kensuke, where *ken* is the Japanese word for "sword" and *-suke* [redacted] a common suffix for boys' names.

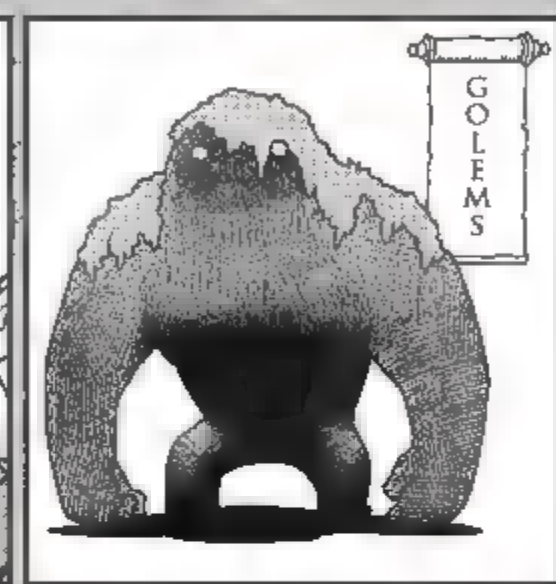
Page 109
In Japanese, Laios's comrades admonish him with the phrase *e ni kaita mochi*, literally, "a rice cake in a picture." Similar [redacted] the English phrases "castle in the air" or "pie in the sky," the phrase refers to something that sounds nice but isn't realistic.

To be continued...

MISCELLANEOUS
MONSTER TALES
2


THEY'RE VERY LOYAL MAGICAL CREATURES THAT FOLLOW ORDERS EXACTLY.
"HELLO!"

SHAPE.
SIZE.
ALL THEIR INFORMATION ■ PACKED INTO THESE CORES.
BEHAV-IORS.

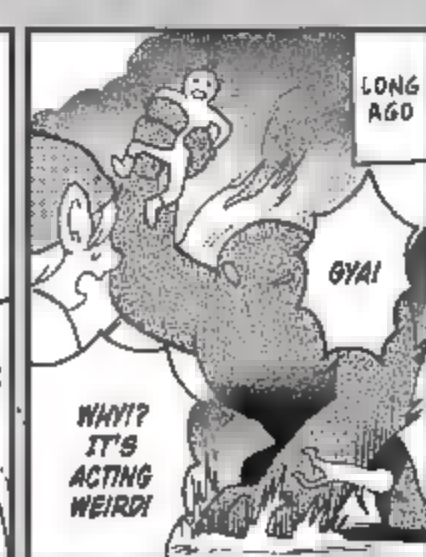

GOLEMS

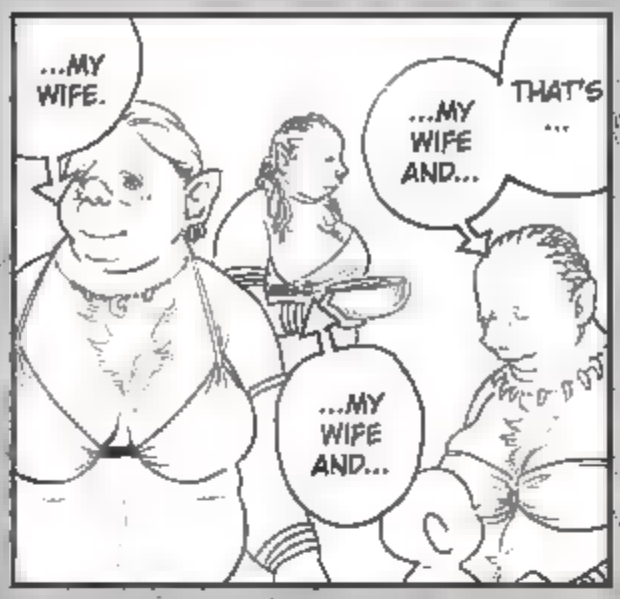
AS LONG AS PEOPLE ARE IMPERFECT BEINGS, I DOUBT THEY'LL EVER ■ USED THE WAY THEY WERE BEFORE.
LIKE WARS, MAYBE?
THERE WERE MANY TRAGEDIES.

WHY?
I BET THEY WERE HANDY.
I HEAR THEY WERE USED REGULARLY LONG AGO...
...BUT NOW THEY'RE MOSTLY BANNED.

I'M SLEEPY...
CORRECT THEM ALL BEFORE THE DELIVERY DATE!
I WANT TO GO HOME.

GNOME NUMBER
ELF NUMBER
THIS IS A MIXTURE OF ELF AND GNOME NUMBERS.
IS THAT WHY IT ACTED UP?

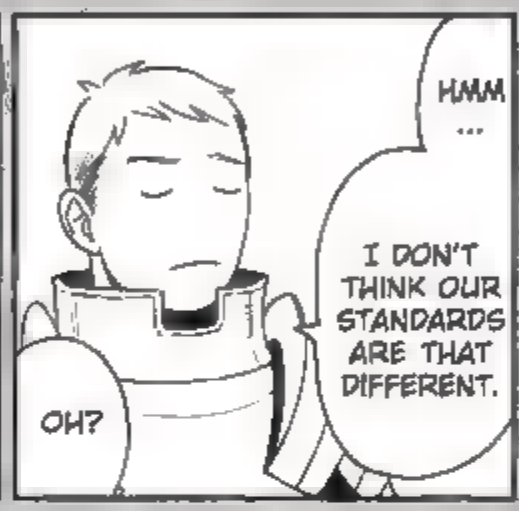

LONG AGO
GYA!
WHY!? IT'S ACTING WEIRD!

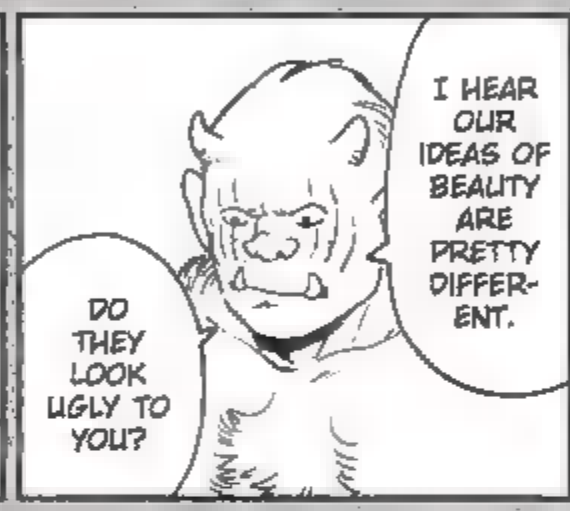

...MY WIFE.
...MY WIFE AND...
THAT'S ...
...MY WIFE AND...

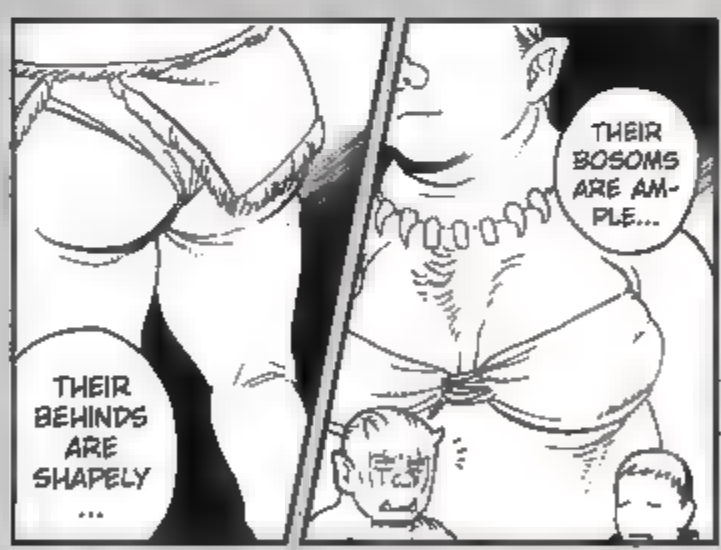
HEY.

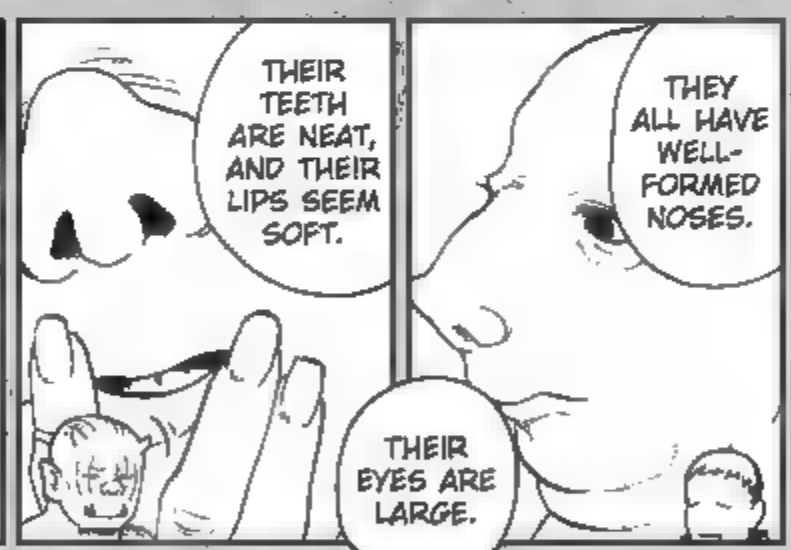
ORCS
DENTI-TION

I CAN TELL BY LOOKING AT YOUR WIVES.


HMM ...
I DON'T THINK OUR STANDARDS ARE THAT DIFFERENT.
OH?


I HEAR OUR IDEAS OF BEAUTY ARE PRETTY DIFFER-ENT.
DO THEY LOOK UGLY TO YOU?


THEIR BEHINDS ARE SHAPELY ...
THEIR BOSOMS ARE AM-PLE...


THEIR TEETH ARE NEAT, AND THEIR LIPS SEEM SOFT.
THEY ALL HAVE WELL-FORMED NOSES.
THEIR EYES ARE LARGE.

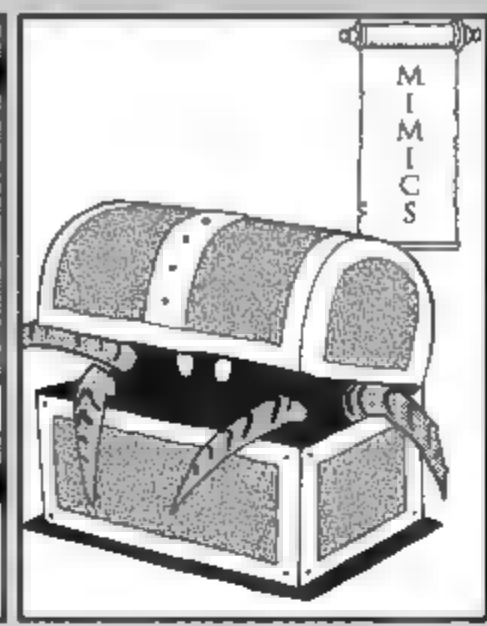
HUH?
WHAT?
YES, NOTHING BEATS LONG EARS.
SCARY ...

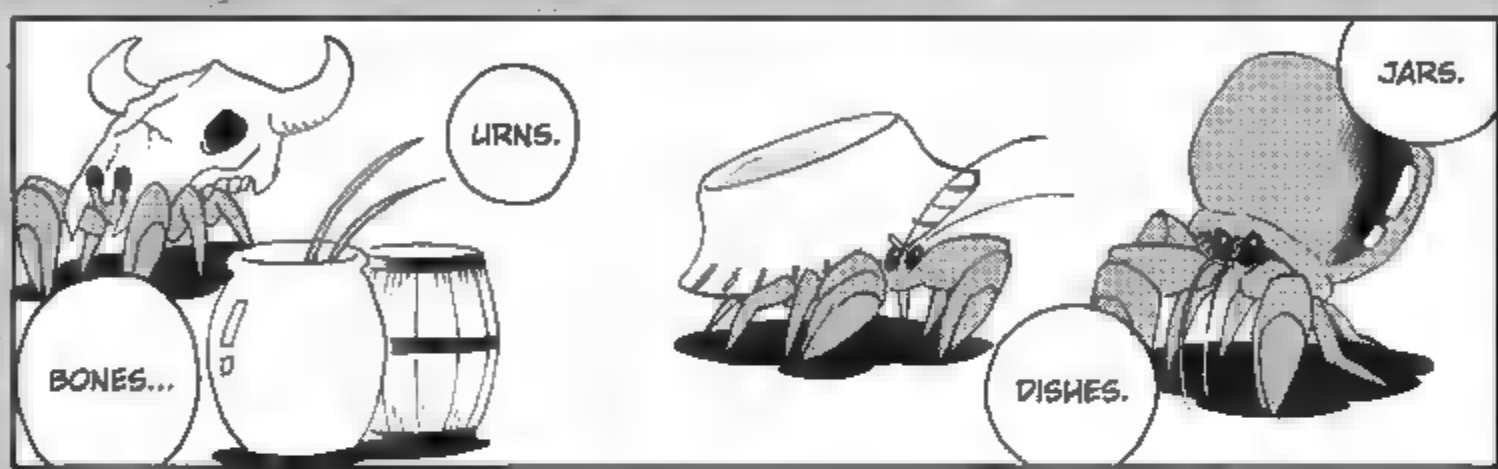
THAT SAID, [redacted] REALLY LIKE ELVES' LONG EARS, YOU KNOW?

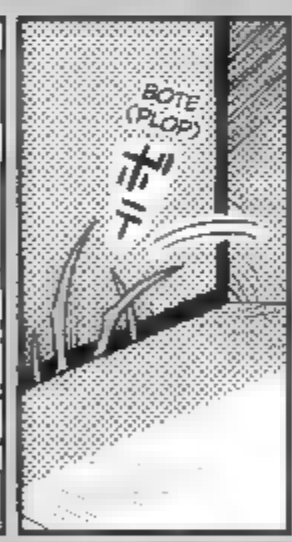
WE COULD EASILY GO FOR—

WHEN THEY'RE YOUNG, THEY'RE THIS BIG.
THEY HIDE IN ALL SORTS OF THINGS.

SO THEY HIDE IN THINGS OTHER THAN TREASURE CHESTS.


MIMICS

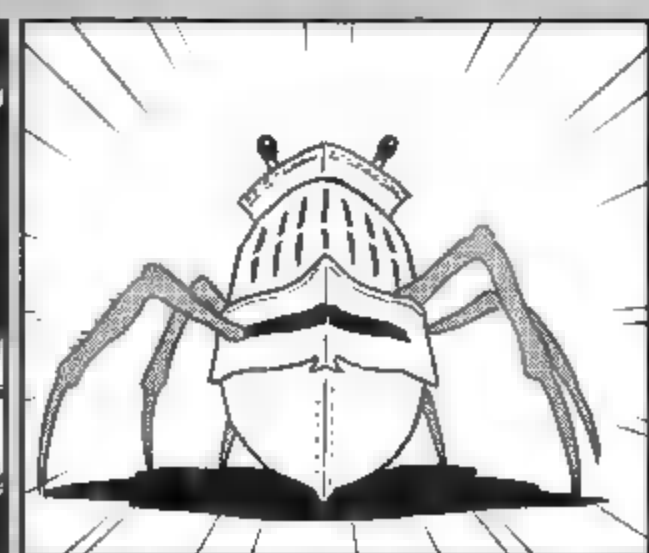

BONES...
URNS.
DISHES.
JARS.


BOTE (PLOP)

ZU (DRAG)

I GUESS THEY'RE DESPER-ATE TOO.
KOTO (TNK)

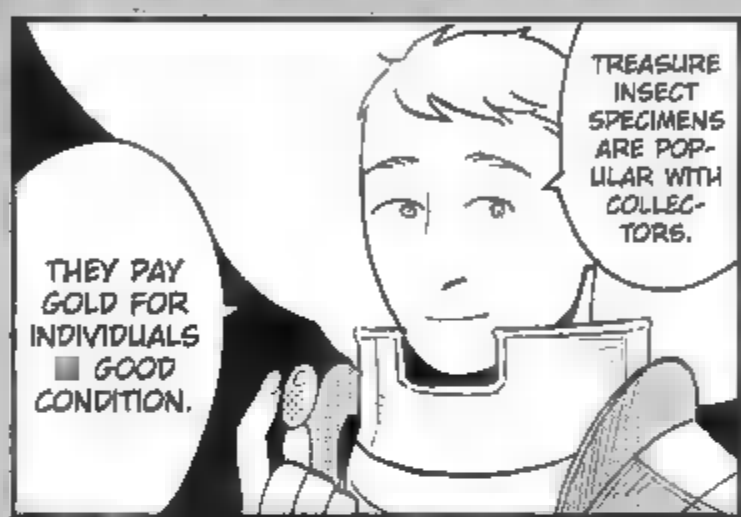
YAAAH!
OVER THERE!



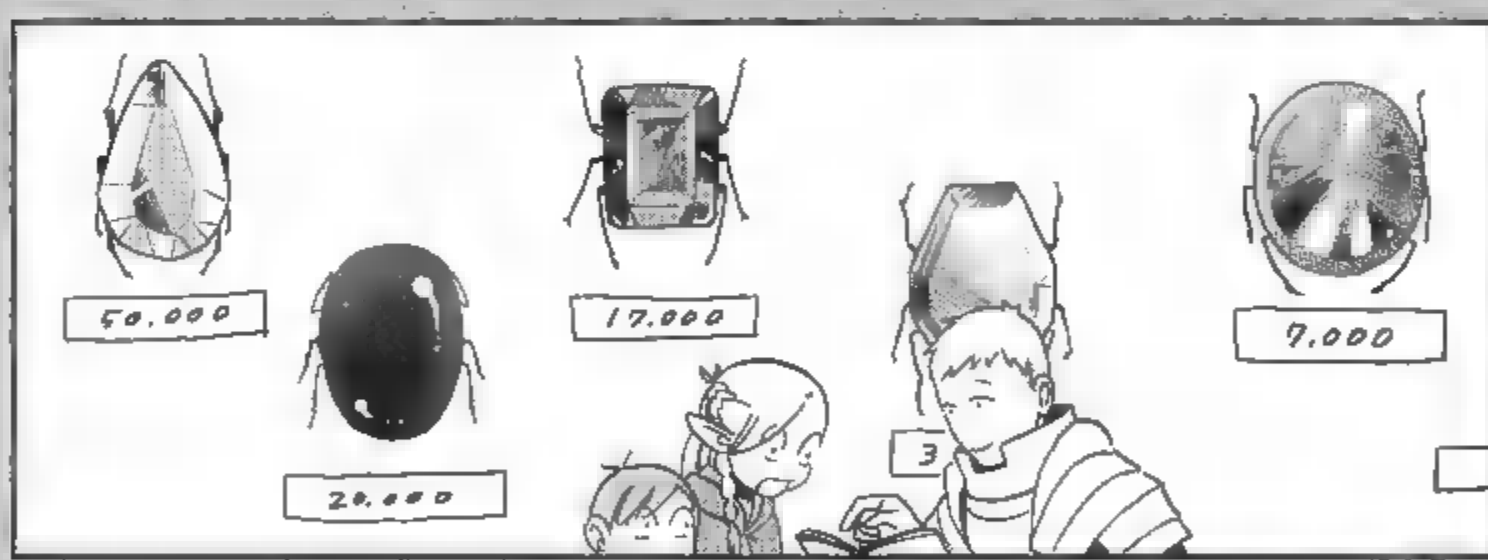
ALL THOSE JEWELS WERE PROBABLY WORTH A FORTUNE.
WHAT A WASTE.

AWW...

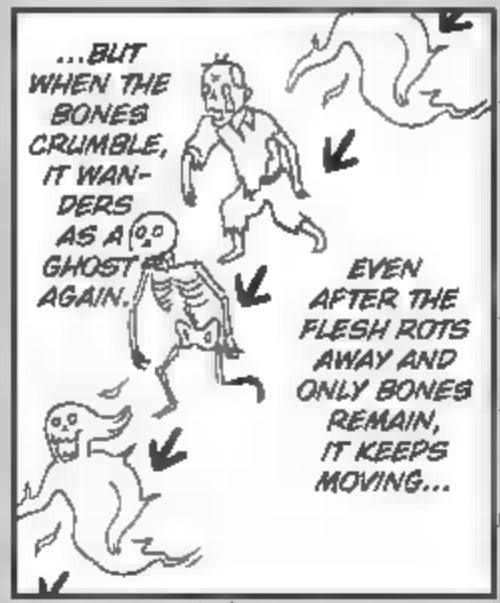
TREASURE INSECTS

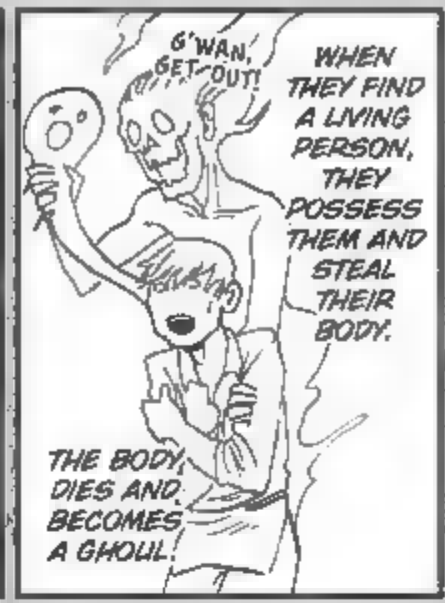

TREASURE INSECT SPECIMENS ARE POPULAR WITH COLLECTORS.
THEY PAY GOLD FOR INDIVIDUALS ■ GOOD CONDITION.

THESE ARE PRETTIER THAN JEWELS.
BUGS AREN'T WORTH ONE RED CENT.


50,000
20,000
17,000
3
7,000

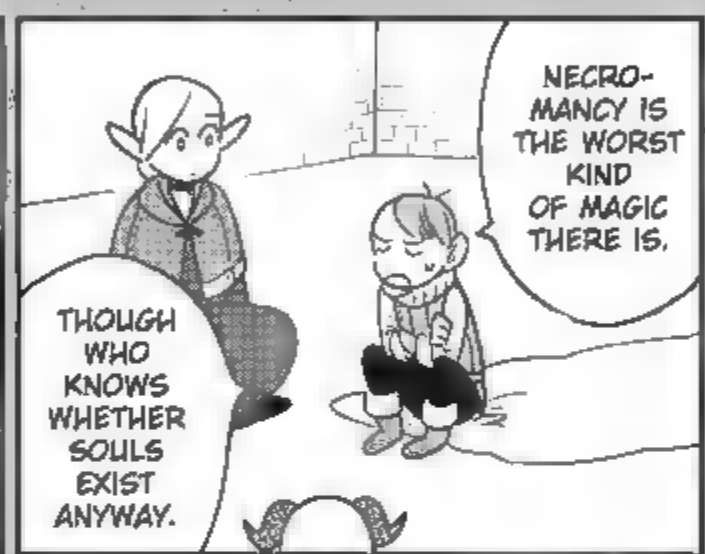
SAY THAT SOONER!


...BUT WHEN THE BONES CRUMBLE, IT WANDERS AS A GHOST AGAIN.
EVEN AFTER THE FLESH ROTS AWAY AND ONLY BONES REMAIN, IT KEEPS MOVING...


G'WAN, GET OUT!
WHEN THEY FIND A LIVING PERSON, THEY POSSESS THEM AND STEAL THEIR BODY.
THE BODY DIES AND BECOMES A GHOUL.

GHOSTS
THEY WANT WARM, FLESH-AND-BLOOD BODIES.
THE DISEMBODIED SOULS OF LIVING CREATURES.

...SPEAKING OF SOULS...


THOUGH WHO KNOWS WHETHER SOULS EXIST ANYWAY.
NECROMANCY IS THE WORST KIND OF MAGIC THERE IS.

NAUSEATING.

YOU THINK?
I KNOW OF SOMETHING SIMILAR.
THE ANGELS' SHARE.

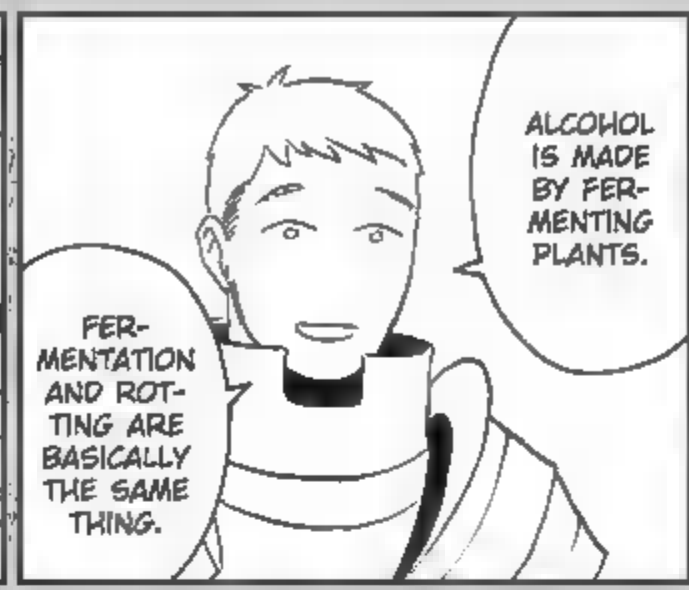
SOUNDS FISHY.
BUT IT'S ROMANTIC, ISN'T IT?

WHEN PEOPLE DIE, THEIR BODIES GROW A LITTLE LIGHTER.
SOME SAY THAT'S THE WEIGHT OF THE SOUL.

CAN YOU BE SURE THAT ISN'T THE WEIGHT OF THE GRAPES' SOULS?
HOGWASH.

I BET IT'S SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
IT'S THE TERM FOR WATER AND ALCOHOL THAT EVAPORATE DURING BREWING, DECREASING THE OUTPUT VOLUME.

HMM. PRETTY MUCH.
RIGHT?

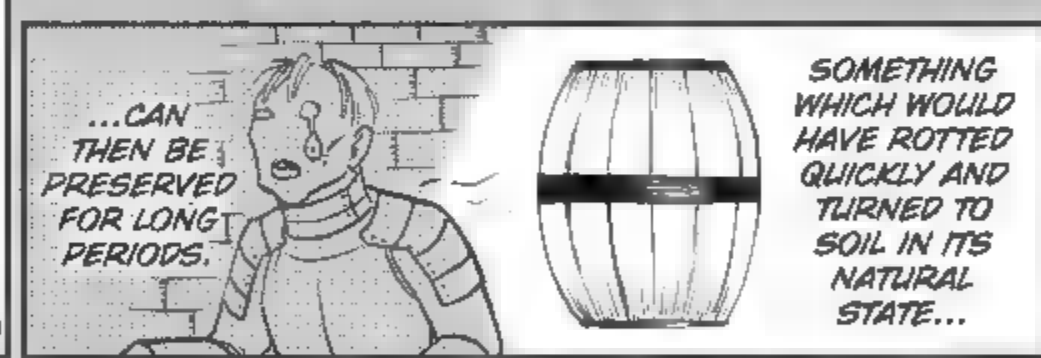

FER-MENTATION AND ROT-TING ARE BASICALLY THE SAME THING.
ALCOHOL IS MADE BY FER-MENTING PLANTS.

I SEE!
PON (TMP)

YOU COULD SAY BREWING ■ ANCIENT NECRO-MANCY.
MAYBE.

THEY HARVEST MATURE PLANTS...

...THEN FERMENT THEM USING THE YEAST THAT'S "POSSESSED" THE FRUIT.


...CAN THEN BE PRESERVED FOR LONG PERIODS.
SOMETHING WHICH WOULD HAVE ROTTED QUICKLY AND TURNED TO SOIL IN ITS NATURAL STATE...

HMPH! DRINKERS.
AH, DAMN. NOW I'M THIRSTY FOR A WHEAT GHOUL.
A NICE COLD ONE.

HEH.
IN THAT CASE, NECRO-MANCY'S NOT SO BAD.

RIGHT.
YOU ONLY MADE IT BACK BECAUSE I WAS HERE.
DO NOT TRY THAT WHEN YOU'RE ALONE!

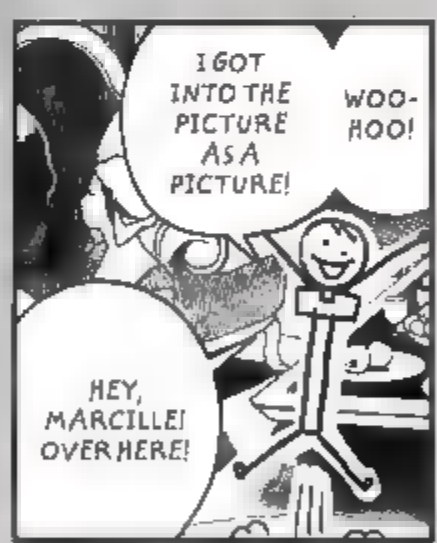
...THEY'RE REALLY ILLUSION SPELLS THAT MANIFEST AS PICTURES.
THEY HAVE "LIVING" IN THEIR NAME, BUT...

LIVING PICTURES

DON'T BE DUMB.
I'LL DRAW MYSELF IN DIRECTLY AND EAT THAT WAY!

I'VE GOT IT!

WHEN PEOPLE GET TRAPPED IN THOSE, 60% OF THE DEATHS FROM STARVATION.
STILL, I DID THINK EATING IN THE PICTURES WAS A GOOD IDEA.
CAUSES OF DEATH BY LIVING PICTURES


I GOT INTO THE PICTURE AS A PICTURE!
WOO-HOO!
HEY, MARCILLE! OVER HERE!

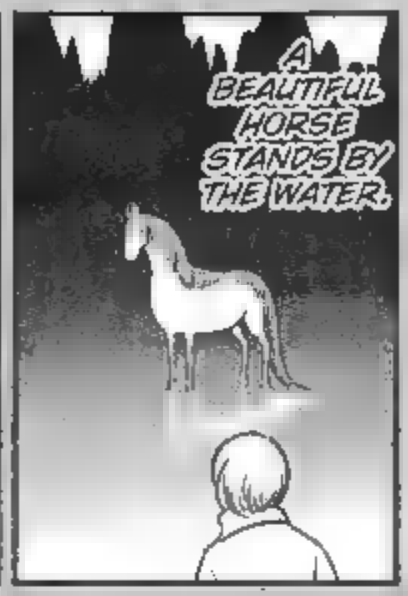
I FEEL EYES ON ME...
BUT WE SHOULD AT LEAST
HUH?
PEOPLE HAVE TRIED THAT SORT OF THING ALREADY.

WHY AM I HERE?
"I"? WHO'S "I"?
AMATEURS SHOULD NEVER MESS WITH MAGIC.
HOW LONG WILL I BE HERE?

I'M HERE!
SEN-SHI!
CHIL-CHUCK!

MAR-CILLE?
HUH? THAT'S ME.
I GUESS IT'S NO GOOD.
LET'S JUST GO.

...YOU'LL BE DRAGGED UNDER BEFORE YOU KNOW IT...
IF YOU CARELESSLY MOUNT IT...


A BEAUTIFUL HORSE STANDS BY THE WATER.

KELPIES

IT HAS LOTS OF VITAMINS AND IRON! IRON IS HARD TO GET.
WHY NOT!?
LIVER IS VERY NUTRITIOUS!

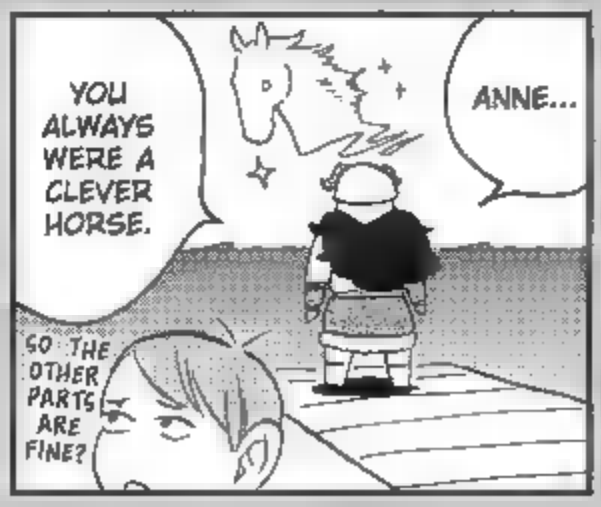
WHY THE LIVER?
APPARENTLY, THEY DON'T EAT IT.

..."AND THE RIDER'S BLOOD AND LIVER FLOAT TO THE SURFACE," IT SAYS.

MAYBE BECAUSE EATING RAW LIVER IS DANGEROUS?

LAIOS, SAY SOMETHING TO HIM.
THERE'S NO ROOM FOR PICKY EATING IN THE WILD.
LIKE I CARE!?

LOTS OF PEOPLE DON'T.
THEY PROBABLY DON'T LIKE IT.
IT HAS A PRETTY UNIQUE TEXTURE.


YOU ALWAYS WERE A CLEVER HORSE.
ANNE...
SO THE OTHER PARTS ARE FINE?

IT'S BEST TO COOK IT WELL, ALL THE WAY THROUGH.
EAT RAW LIVER, AND YOU RISK HEPATITIS E, FOOD POISONING, AND PARASITES.
TRUE ...!

2

DELICIOUS IN DUNGEON

RYOKO KUI

Translation: Taylor Engel **Lettering: Abigail Blackman**

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, ■ persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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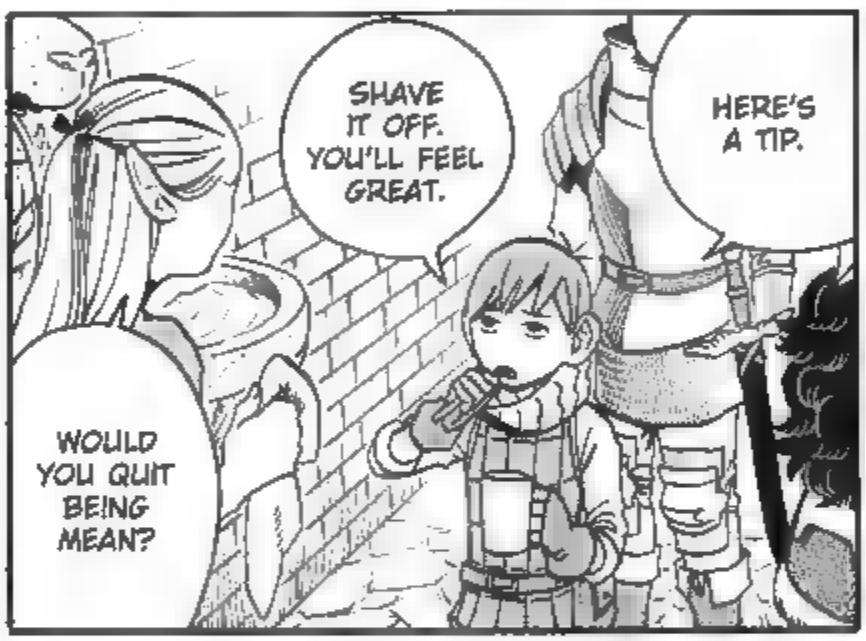
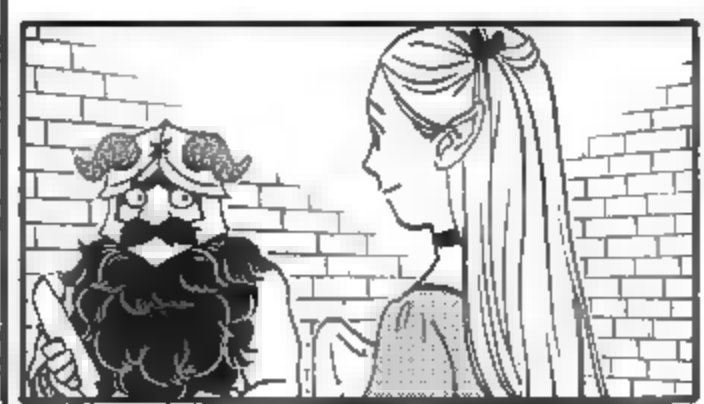
ZORI (SCRIT)
JYAKO
JYAKO (SCRUB)
GOSHI (WIPE)
GOSHI





WITH YOUR WHISKERS IN THAT STATE, MY SUPPORT MIGHT NOT WORK.
THAT'S FINE WITH ME.

HAIR IS IMPORTANT IN MAGIC TOO.
TAKING CARE OF IT IS LIKE A WARM-UP EXERCISE.

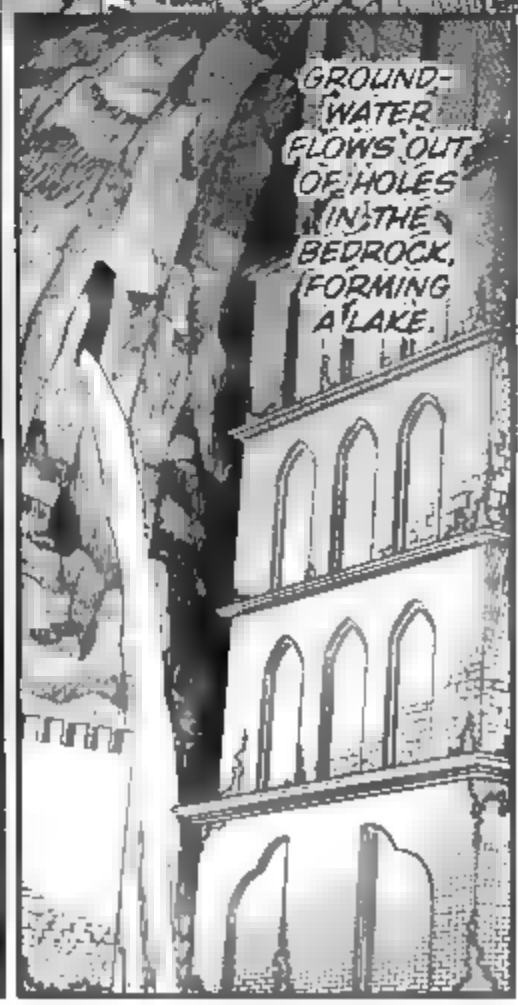
I KNOW! I HAVE SOME GOOD SOAP.
LET'S WASH YOUR BEARD WITH THAT, AND I'LL BRAID IT FOR YOU!

THAT WAS EXPENSIVE!
NOOO!
SHALL WE GO?

AH!
OH, OF COURSE! BACK THEN...

HM?
HUH?

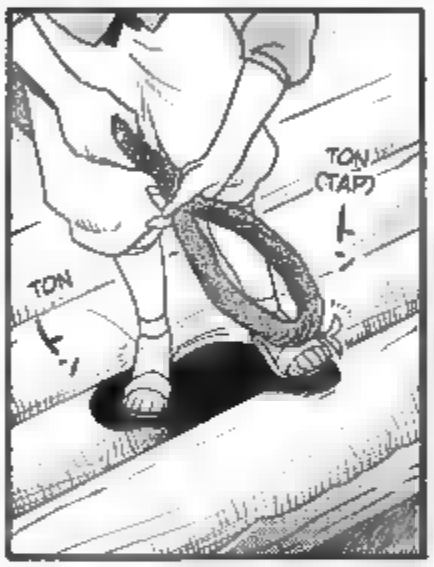
4F BELOW-GROUND



HOW DO YOU GO PAST THIS POINT?
FU FU FU...

I FISH AROUND HERE...
SET TRAPS...
THAT'S ABOUT IT.

HOW DO YOU NORMALLY EXPLORE THE FOURTH FLOOR, SENSHI?


TON (TAP)
TON

YOU TAKE THIS, LIKE SO, AND...
HM!?
KURURI (TWIRL)

NATU-RALLY...
...THAT'S WHERE MAGIC COMES IN!

NUH...
NUH ...
"NUH"?

YOU JUST WALK ACROSS THE WATER.
SEE?
PRETTY NEAT, HUH?

PYON (HOP)
ぴょん

BUWA (SPLISH)
ブワッ

YOU DON'T HAVE TO FUSS THAT MUCH.

MY, THAT'S UNSIGHTLY.

NO! NO!

NOOOOOOO!

I DON'T UNDER-STAND THAT.

YOU PEOPLE ARE TOO CARELESS WITH SPELLS.

I DON'T GET IT. WHY DO YOU HATE MAGIC SO MUCH?

IT'S NOT AS IF THERE'S NO WORK INVOLVED IN CASTING MAGIC.

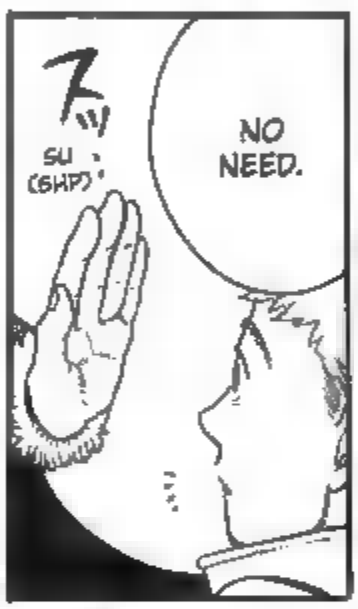
DON (SHOVE)

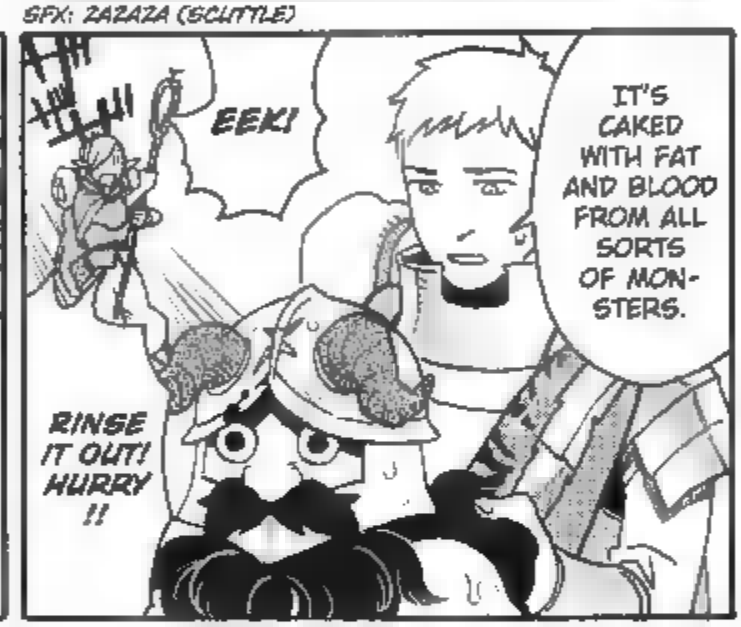
DWAH!

WELL, WHAT'S DONE IS DONE.

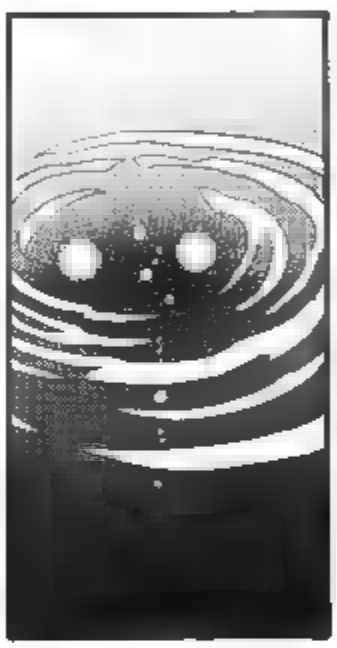
YOU NEVER KNOW. YOU MIGHT LIKE IT.

SFX: ZAZAZA (SCUTTLE)

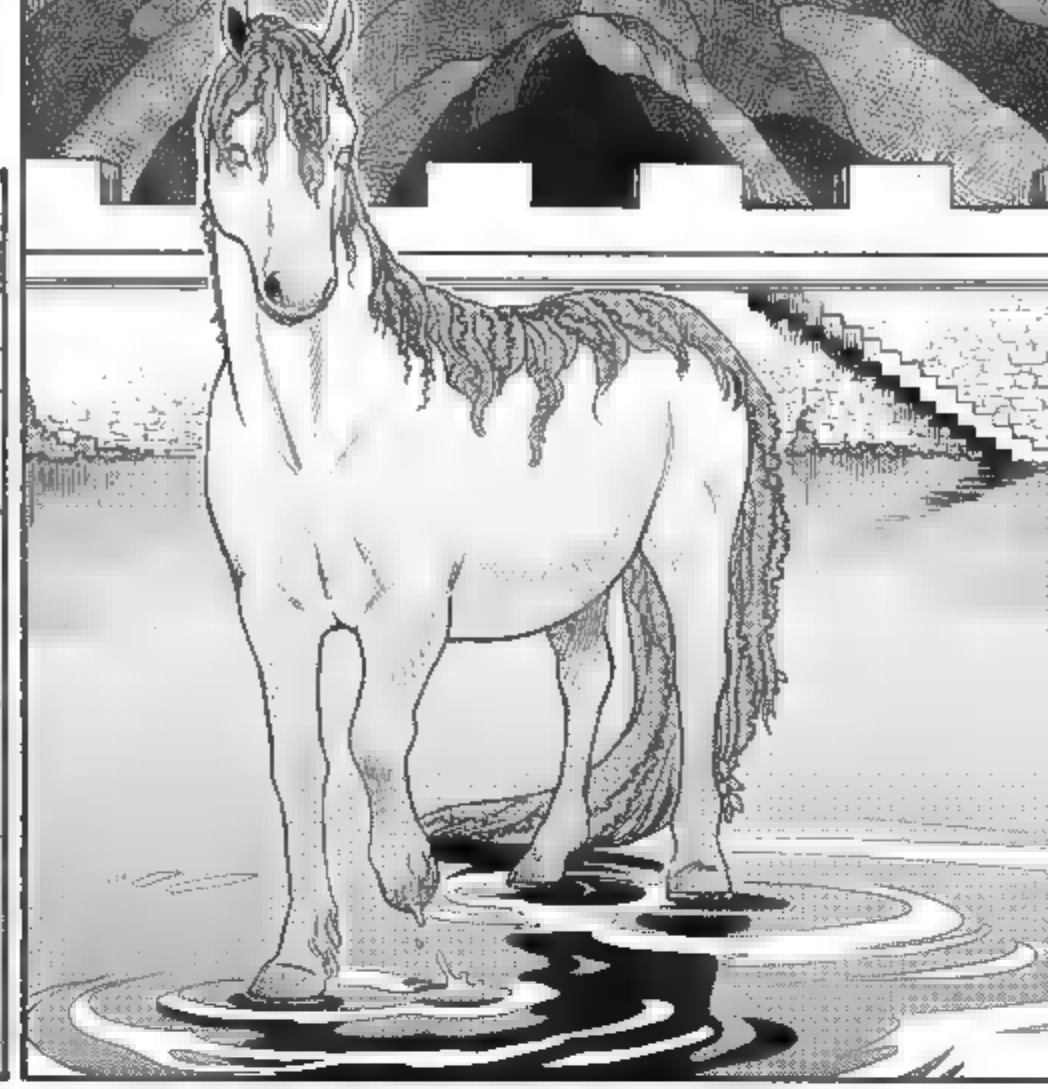


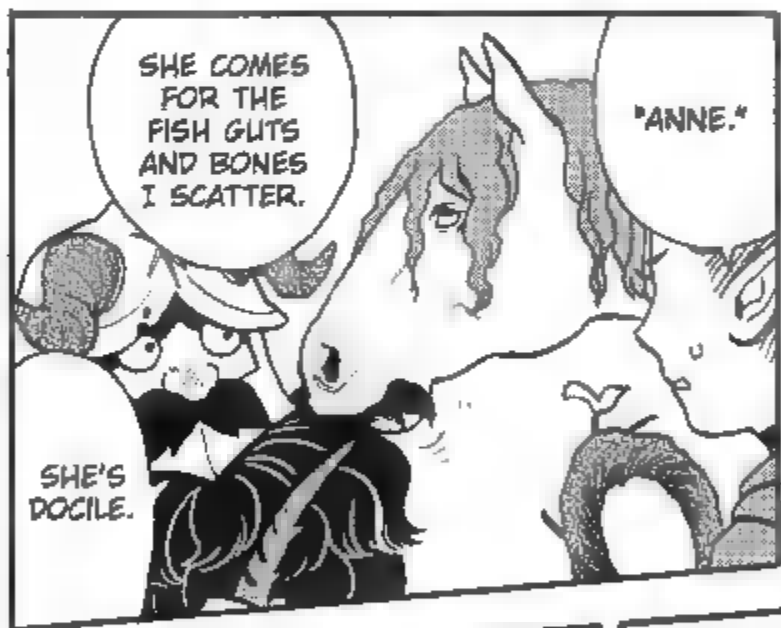


SFX: WAKU (GIDDY) WAKU



A KELPIE!
LOOK OUT! GET BACK!

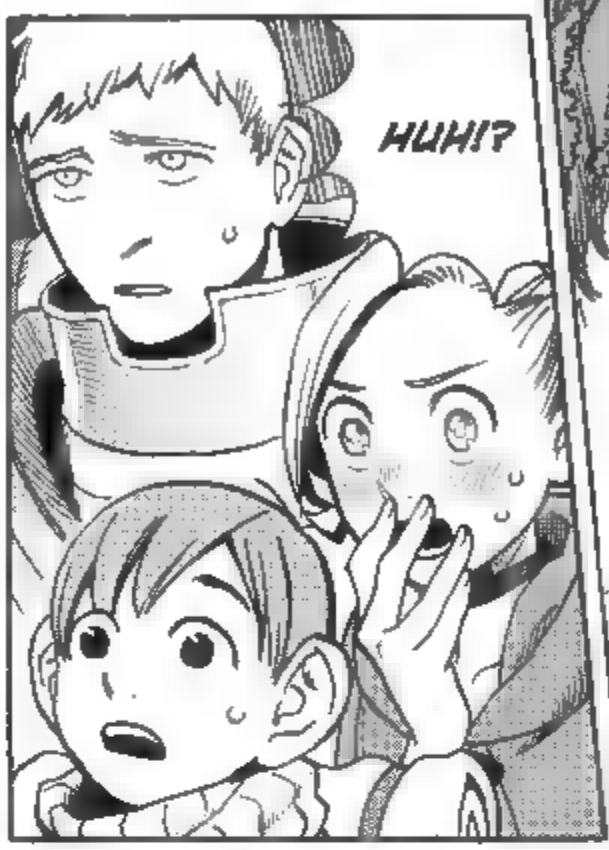



SHE COMES FOR THE FISH GUTS AND BONES I SCATTER.
"ANNE."
SHE'S DOCILE.

ANNE ALWAYS COMES TO VISIT ME WHEN I'M FISHING.
IT'S FINE. SHE'S HARMLESS.

DORI CRUNCH
CUTE...
OOH!

IT'S AN OMNIV-OROUS MONSTER.
SHE EATS FISH? HUH!


HUH!?

I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED WHETHER I COULD CROSS THE LAKE WITH HER.

Le ADVENTURE
TH-TH-THAT WOULD BE...
...ABSO-LUTELY SPLEN-DID!!

MAYBE I COULD USE A MIMIC SHELL...
...AND GUIDE HER THAT WAY.

YOU'RE AWFUL.
WHAT A THING TO SAY!!

I'M AGAINST IT.
I THINK MAKING A LIFE PRESERVER WITH ITS ORGANS WOULD BE MORE USEFUL.

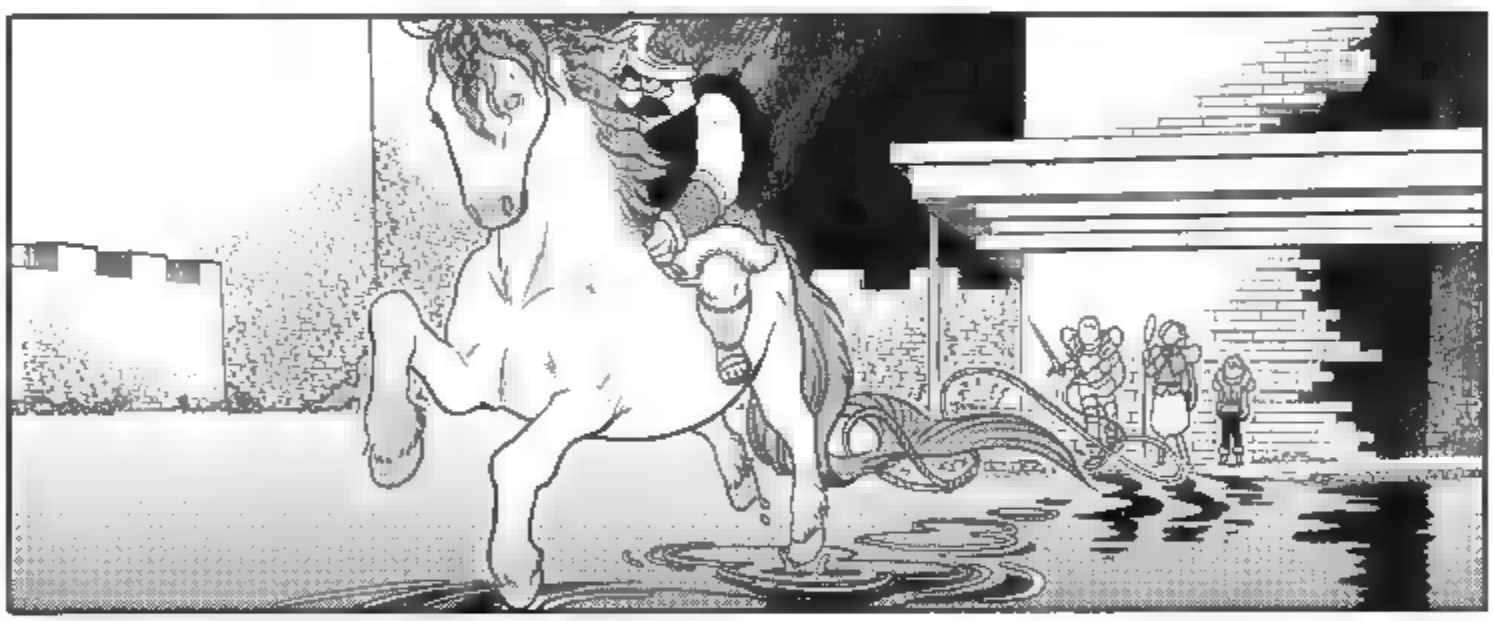
KELPIES MAKE PEOPLE CARELESS, THEN PULL THEM INTO THE WATER.
WAAAGH!
PEOPLE CAN NEVER KNOW WHAT MONSTERS ARE REALLY THINKING.
VAIOS!

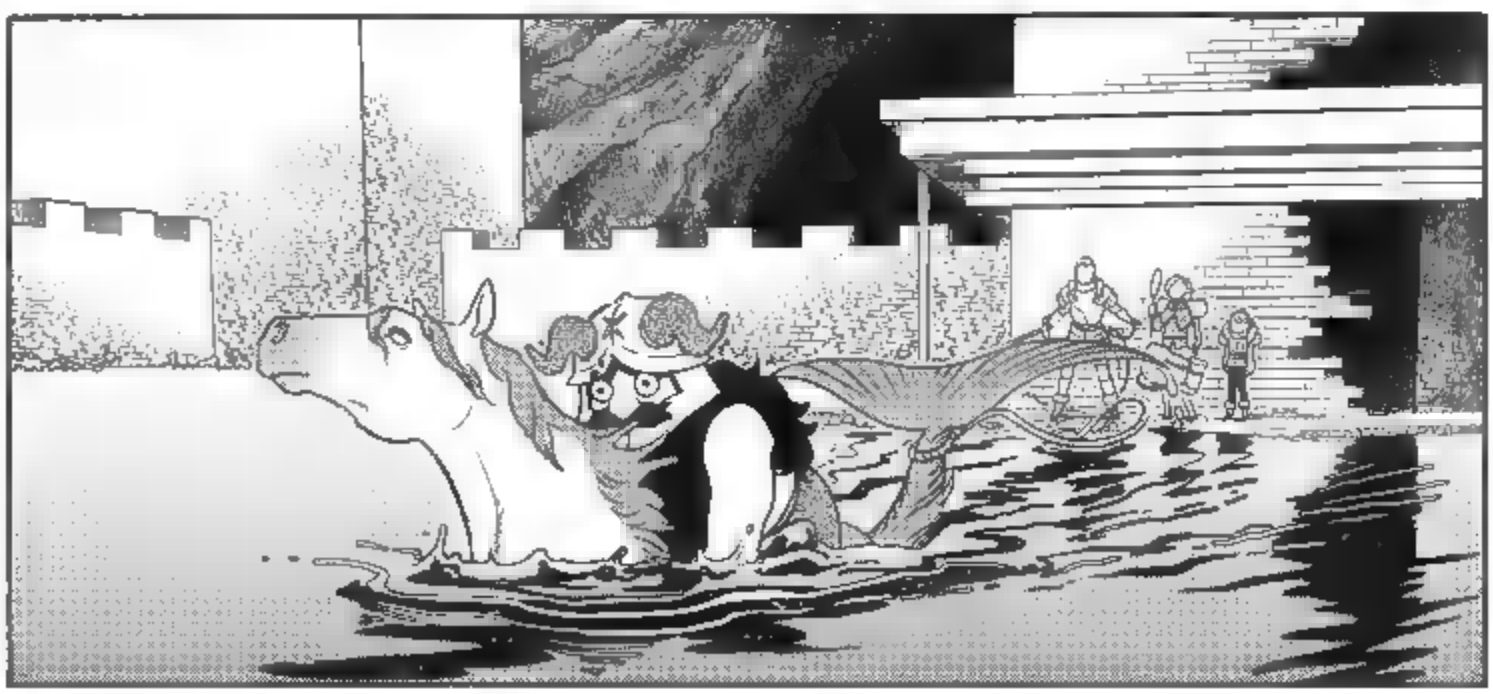
MONSTERS ARE DANGEROUS.
ESPECIALLY THE CHARMING ONES.
LIVING THINGS TAKE THE BEST SHAPE TO ACHIEVE WHAT THEY NEED.

I MEAN, HE DIDN'T WANT ME GROWING MAN-EATING PLANTS.
WHY IS EVERYONE SO SOFT ON MAMMALS?
UH...
DO YOU REALLY NOT KNOW WHY?

TAKOU
JIROU
SABU
I'VE KNOWN ANNE AS LONG AS THE GOLEMS.
I KNOW HER A LOT BETTER THAN I KNOW YOU.

LET'S GO, ANNE!

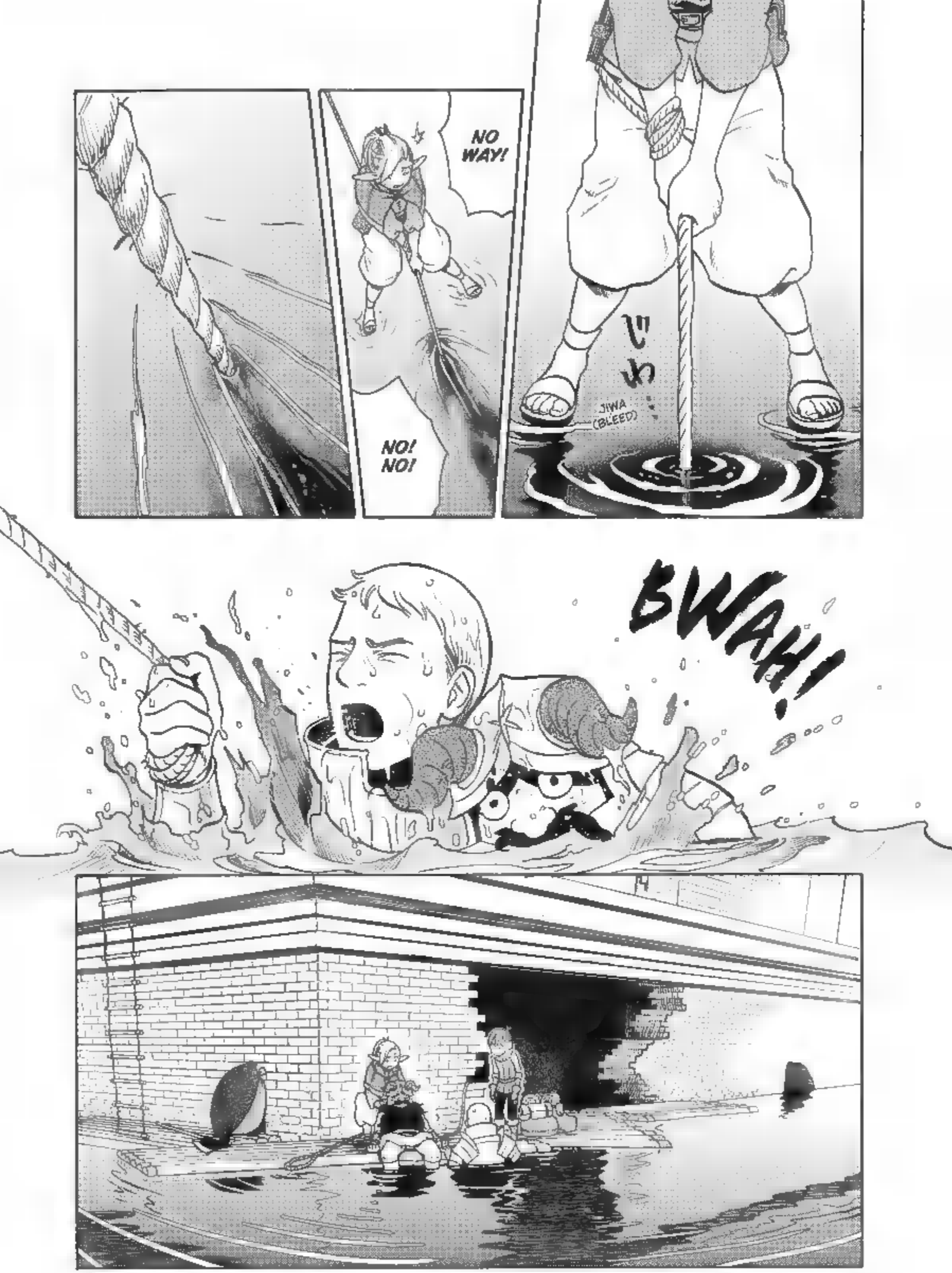




SENSHI!!!!
GUWA (SNARL)
A-ANNE...
DOO (THOOMD)

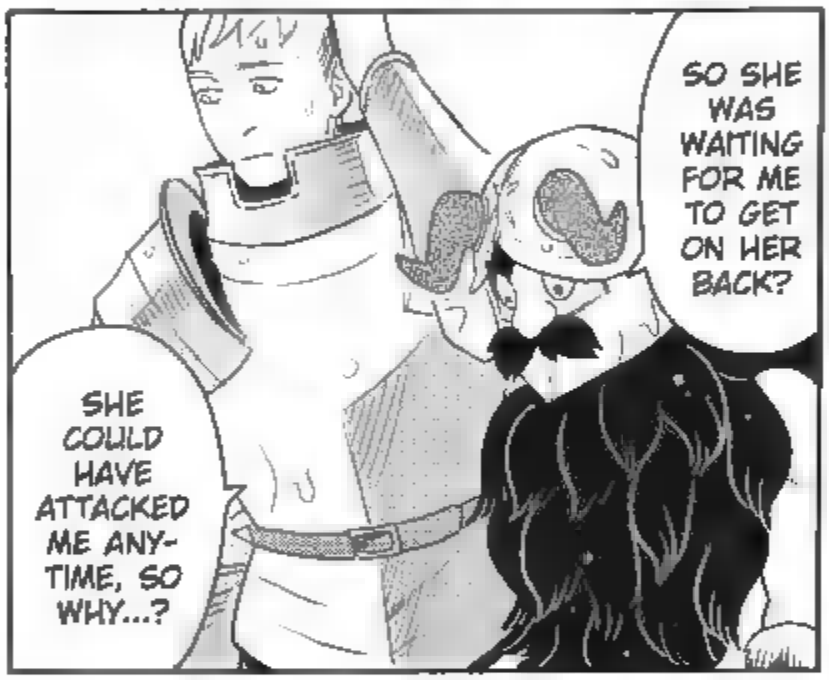
BA
(LEAP)
MAR-
CILLE!
GAKIN
(SNAP)
MESHA
(CRUNCH)
ANNE,
STOP!
MISHI
(CRACK)
MISHI
MI

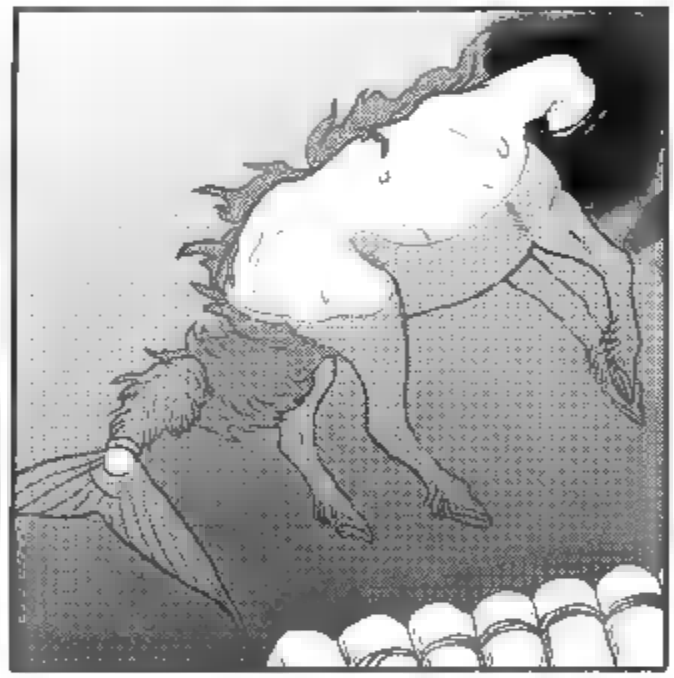
くいあ
GLWAA (ROAAAR)
GHK...
LAIOS!
BA (GRAB)
ばなな
FORGIVE ME, ANNE.


NO WAY!
NO! NO!
JIWA (BLEED)
BWAH!!

SEE? LIKE THAT.
PHEW.
HAFF...
HAFF...

P.TOOO!


SO SHE WAS WAITING FOR ME TO GET ON HER BACK?
SHE COULD HAVE ATTACKED ME ANY-TIME, SO WHY...?



I DON'T GET IT.
I JUST DON'T GET IT.

WHO KNOWS.
BETTER ODDS, MAYBE?
I DON'T REALLY UNDER-STAND HOW MONSTERS THINK.

SUKU (STAND)
すくっ
UM... YOU MUST BE COLD.
I'LL START A FIRE.

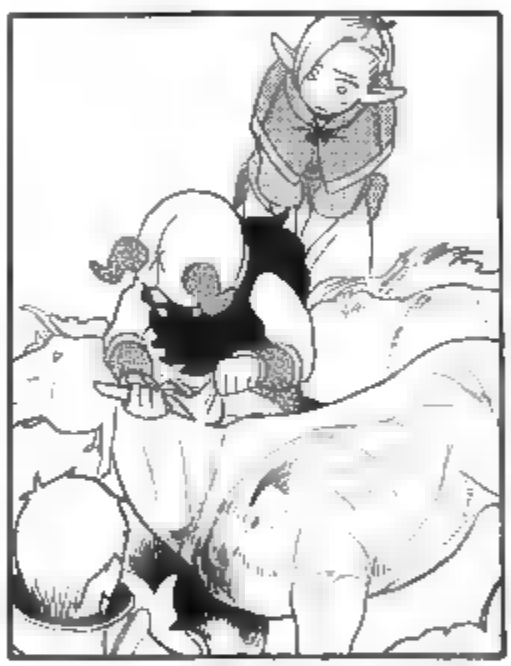
WANT ME TO HELP?

YOU'RE EATING HER!? BUT YOU LOVED HER SO MUCH!!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU!
WHY...?

GRK!
GU (GRIP)

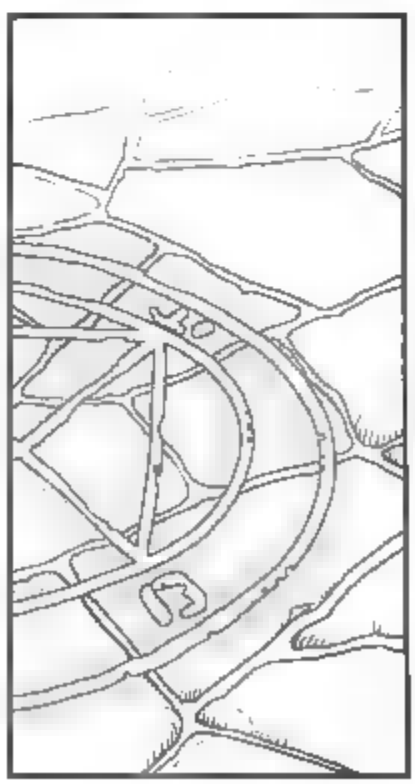
I'M DOING THIS ALONE.

NO.



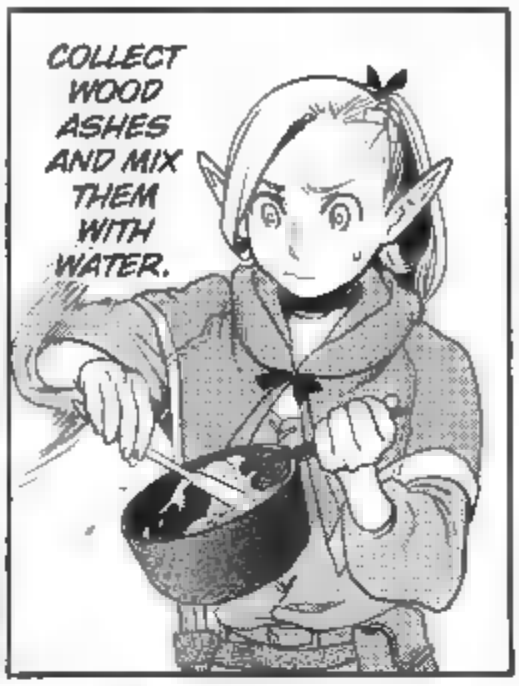
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?

COULD I HAVE A LITTLE OF THE FAT?
...UM.

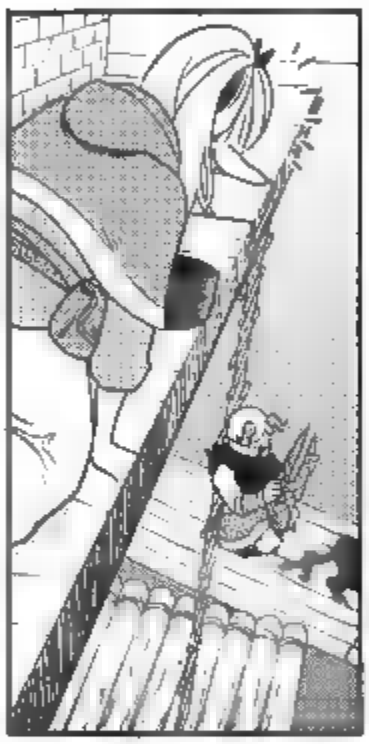


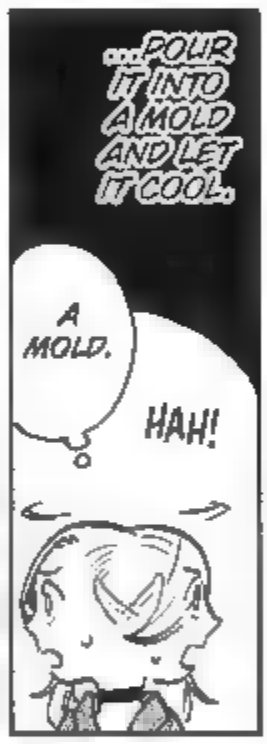
GARI
GARI (SCRITCH)

ADD THE OIL, OLIVE OIL, AND FILTERED LYE A LITTLE AT A TIME AND STIR.


COLLECT WOOD ASHES AND MIX THEM WITH WATER.

HEAT THE FAT, AND EXTRACT THE OIL.




...POUR IT INTO A MOLD AND LET IT COOL.
A MOLD.
HAH!

ONCE THE LIQUID LEAVES TRACKS WHEN YOU DRIZZLE IT...

SOME-THING YOU MAY NOT LIKE...

WHAT'S THIS?

IF YOU'RE THROWING THAT SHELL AWAY, LET ME HAVE IT.

Kelpie Oil Soap

ALL RIGHT.

THAT SHOULD DO IT!

FINISHED IMAGE

Ingredients

Kelpie fat	300 ml
Olive oil	300 ml
Plant and wood ash	150 mg
Water	150 ml

TERO
(DRIBBLE)

BASHA
(SPLASH)

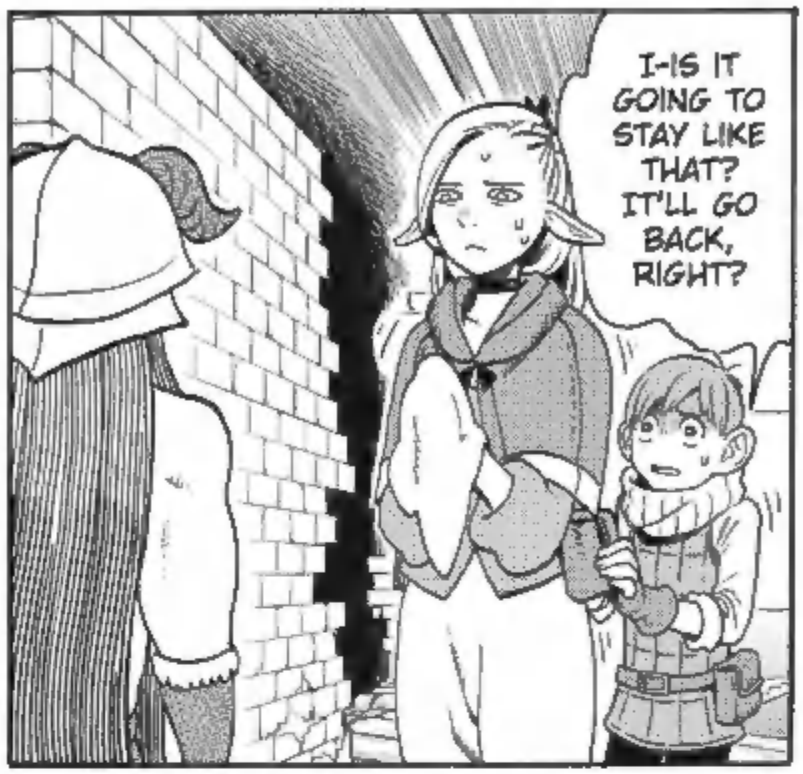
SAPU
(SPLISH)

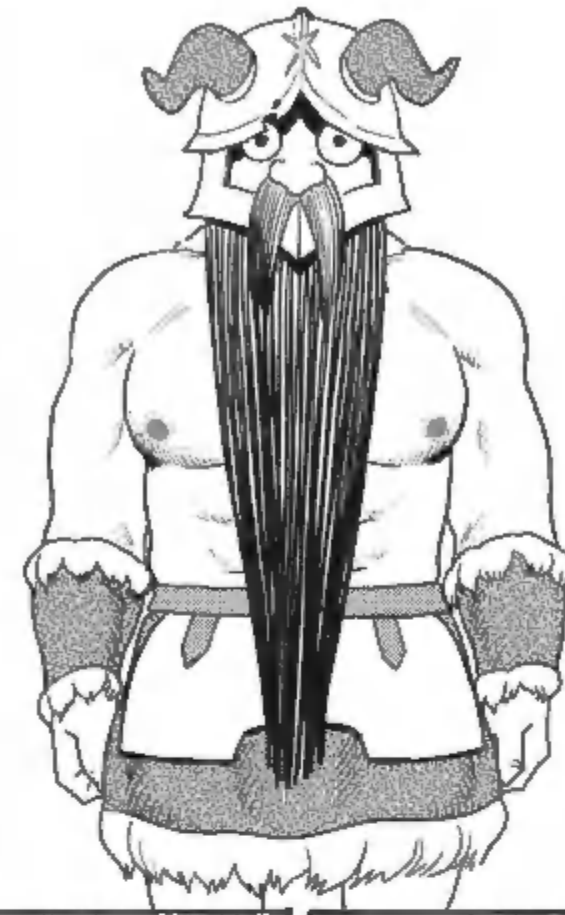
WASHI
WASHI
WASHI

WASHI
(SHUFFA)

WITH YOUR SKILL, YOU CAN DO IT!
TRY HARD, MARCILLE.
MY SKILL HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!

I KNEW IT! IT ISN'T FOAMING AT ALL!
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S THE SOAP OR YOUR HAIR, BUT...!


I-IS IT GOING TO STAY LIKE THAT? IT'LL GO BACK, RIGHT?



...AND DRY IT!

WE'LL COMB OUT YOUR HAIR...

NOW SIT IN FRONT OF THE FIRE.

FUWA (FLUFF)
FUWA

HUFF...
HUFF...
FUWA
ファッ…

OH GOOD!

NOW WE'LL BE ABLE TO GO ON TOGETHER.

I SEE...

DOING THIS HAS SHOWN ME ONE THING.

THE PARTY HAD USED UP THE BETTER PART OF A DAY HERE.

THE SOAP STINGS MY EYES.

THEIR JOURNEY THROUGH THE FOURTH BELOW-GROUND FLOOR HAD JUST BEGUN.

THANK YOU, MARCILLE.

...UH-HUH.

WALKING ON WATER FEELS PRETTY NICE.

CHAPTER 14: THE END